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★ The war has both multiplied the number of Official Departments and encouraged Societies and Committees of all kinds to become more vocal. The result is a growing output of official and group propaganda. A glossary of abbreviations is now provided below, together with the full address and telephone number of the organizations concerned. In all cases where the town is not mentioned the word LONDON is implicit in the address.

AA	Architectural Association. 34/6, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 0974
ABT	Association of Building Technicians. 5, Ashley Place, S.W.1.	Victoria 0447-8
APRR	Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction. 32, Gordon Square, W.C.1.	Euston 2158-9
ARCUK	Architects' Registration Council. 68, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 9738
ASB	Architectural Science Board of the Royal Institute of British Architects. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 5721
BC	Building Centre. 23, Maddox Street, W.1.	Mayfair 2128
BCIRA	British Cast Iron Research Association. Alvechurch, Birmingham.	Redditch 716
BDA	British Door Association. Shobnall Road, Burton-on-Trent.	Burton-on-Trent 3350
BIAE	British Institute of Adult Education. 29, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.	Euston 5385
BINC	Building Industries National Council. 11, Weymouth Street, W.1.	Langham 2785
BOT	Board of Trade. Millbank, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5140
BRS	Building Research Station. Bucknalls Lane, Watford.	Garston 2246
BSA	British Steelwork Association. 11, Tothill Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5073
BSI.	British Standards Institution. 28, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 3333
CCA	Cement and Concrete Association. 52, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.	Sloane 5255
CEMA	Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts. 9, Belgrave Square, S.W.1.	Sloane 0421
CPRE	Council for the Preservation of Rural England. 4, Hobart Place, S.W.	Sloane 4280
CSI	Chartered Surveyors' Institution. 12, Great George Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 5322
DIA	Design and Industries Association. Central Institute of Art and Design, National Gallery, W.C.2.	Whitehall 2415
DOT	Department of Overseas Trade. Dolphin Square, S.W.1.	Victoria 4477
EJMA	English Joinery Manufacturers Association (Incorporated). Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1.	Regent 4448
FAS	Faculty of Architects and Surveyors. 8, Buckingham Palace Gdns., S.W.1.	Sloane 2837
FMB	Federation of Master Builders. 23, Compton Terrace, Upper Street, N.1.	Canonbury 2041
FS (Eng.)	Faculty of Surveyors of England. 8, Buckingham Palace Gdns., S.W.1.	Sloane 2837
GG	Georgian Group. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2664
HC	Housing Centre. 13, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 2881
HPS	Housing Production Society. 1, Old Burlington Street, W.1.	Regent 3380
IAAS	Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors. 75, Eaton Place, S.W.1.	Sloane 3158
ICE	Institution of Civil Engineers. Great George Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 4577
IEE	Institution of Electrical Engineers. Savoy Place, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 7676
IOB	Institute of Builders. 48, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 7197
IRA	Institute of Registered Architects. 47, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 6172
ISE	Institution of Structural Engineers. 11, Upper Belgrave Street, S.W.1.	Sloane 7128-29
LIDC	Lead Industries Development Council. Eagle House, Jermyn Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 7264
LMBA	London Master Builders' Association. 47, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 3767
MARS	Modern Architectural Research. 46, Sheffield Terrace, W.8.	Park 7678
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. 55, Whitehall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 3400
MOE	Ministry of Education. Belgrave Square, S.W.1.	Sloane 4522
MOH	Ministry of Health. Whitehall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 4300
MOI	Ministry of Information. Malet Street, W.C.1.	Euston 4321
MOLNS	Ministry of Labour and National Service, St. James's Square, S.W.1.	Whitehall 6200
MOS	Ministry of Supply. Shell Mex House, Victoria Embankment, W.C.	Gerrard 6933
MOT	Ministry of Transport. Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, W.1.	Abbey 7711
MOTCP	Ministry of Town and Country Planning. 32-33, St. James's Square, S.W.1.	Whitehall 8411
MOW	Ministry of Works. Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611
NAMMC	Natural Asphalte Mine-Owners and Manufacturers Council. 94, Petty France, S.W.1.	Abbey 1010
NBR	National Buildings Record. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 1881
	All Souls' College, Oxford.	Oxford 48809
NFBTE	National Federation of Building Trades Employers. 82, New Cavendish Street, W.1.	Langham 4041
NFBTO	National Federation of Building Trades Operatives. 9, Rugby Chambers, Rugby Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2770
NFHS	National Federation of Housing Societies. 13, Suffolk St., S.W.1.	Whitehall 2881/2/3
NT	National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. 7, Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W.1.	Sloane 5808
PEP	Political and Economic Planning. 16, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.	Whitehall 7245
PWB	Post War Building, Directorate of. Ministry of Works, Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611
RCA	Reinforced Concrete Association. 91, Petty France, S.W.1.	Whitehall 9936
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects. 66, Portland Place, W.1.	Welbeck 5721
RS	Royal Society. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.	Regent 3335
RSA	Royal Society of Arts. 6, John Adam Street, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 8274
SFMA	School Furniture Manufacturers' Association. 13, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.	Chancery 5313
SPAB	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. 55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2646
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Association 28, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 5006
TDA	Timber Development Association. 75, Cannon Street, E.C.4.	City 6147
TPI	Town Planning Institute. 18, Ashley Place, S.W.1.	Victoria 8815

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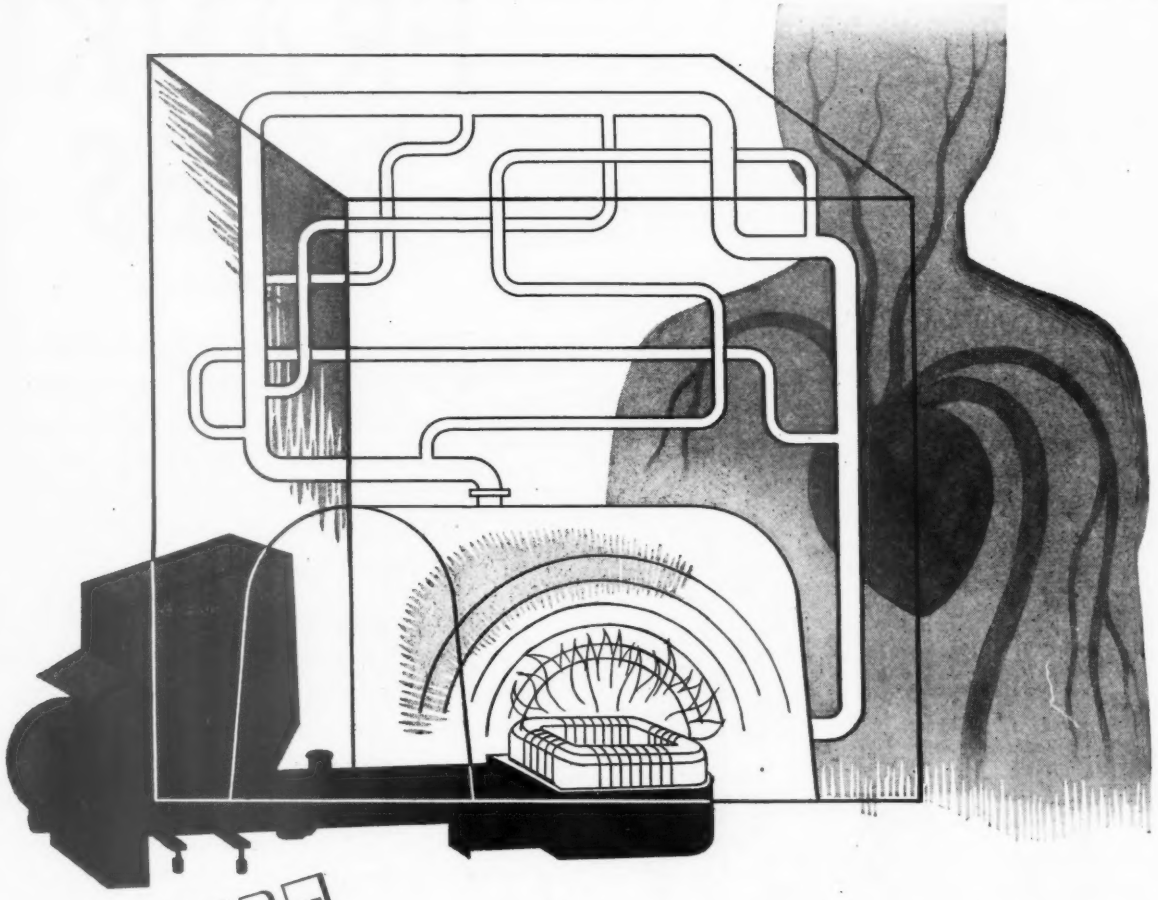
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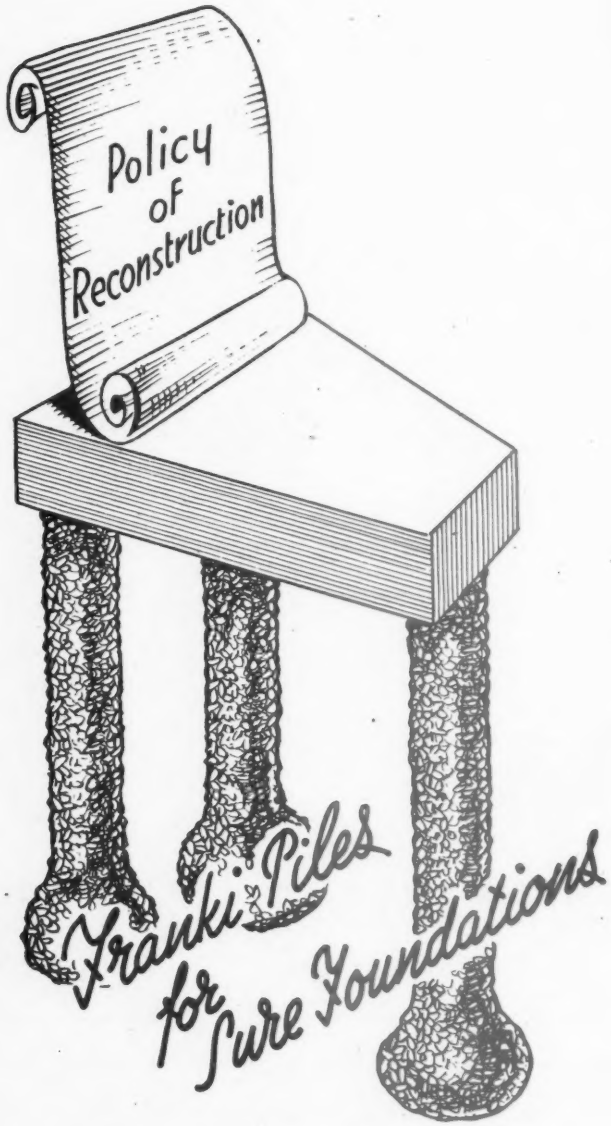
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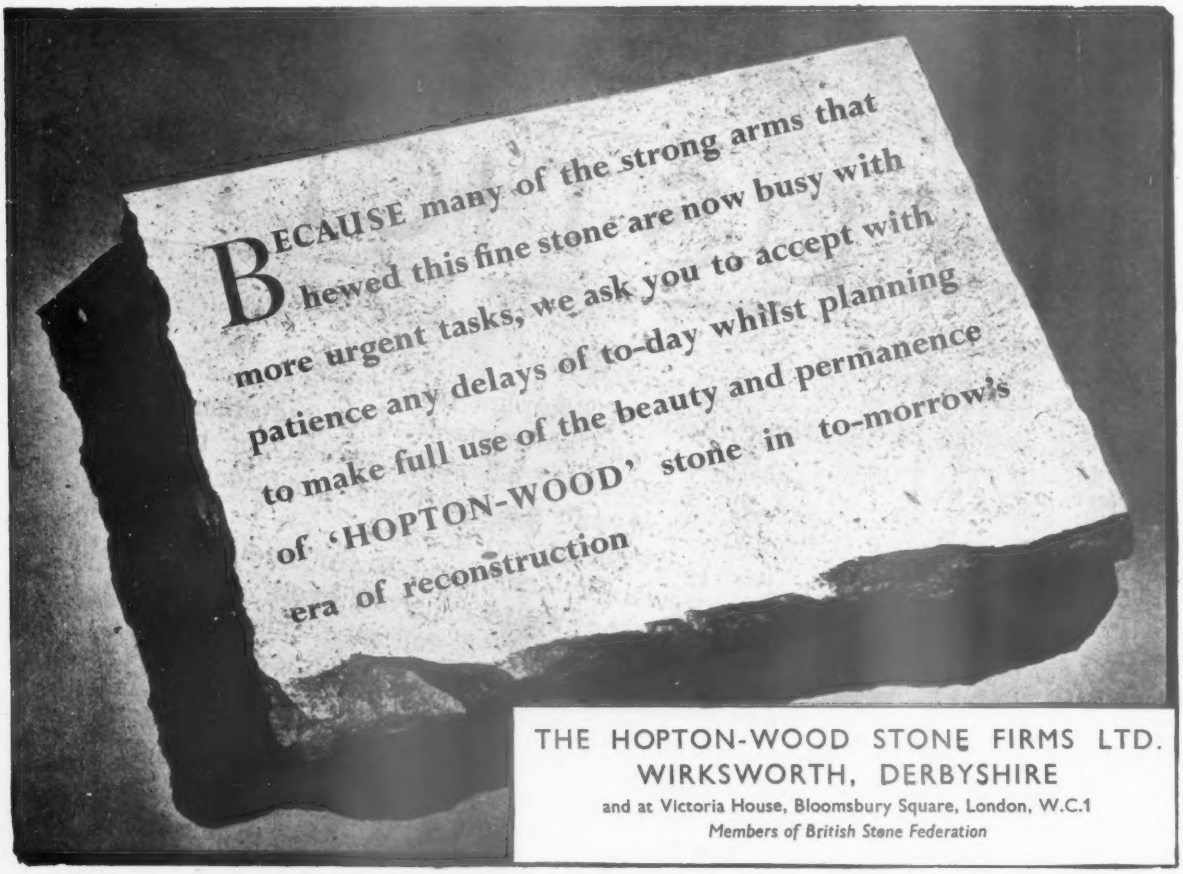
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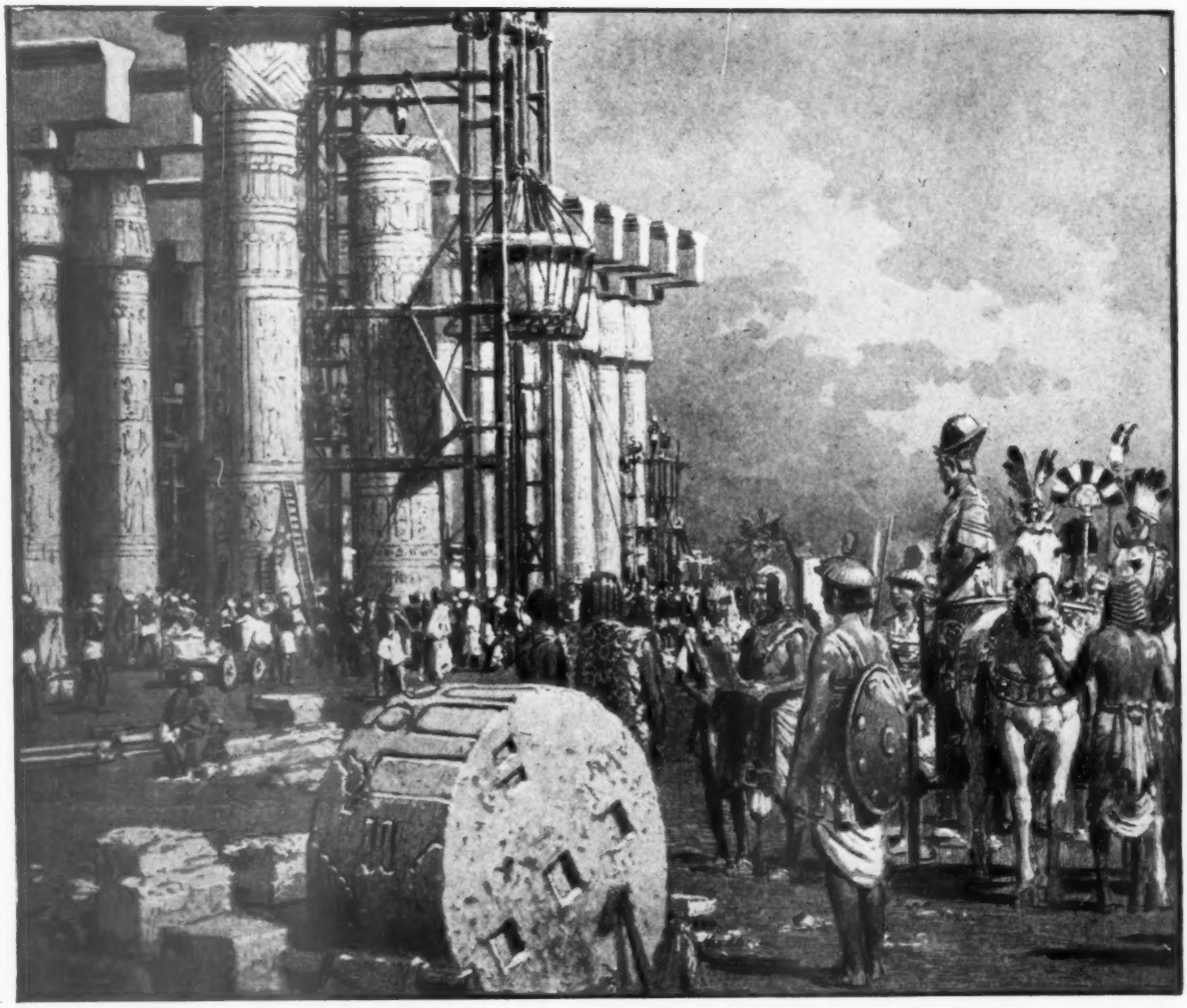
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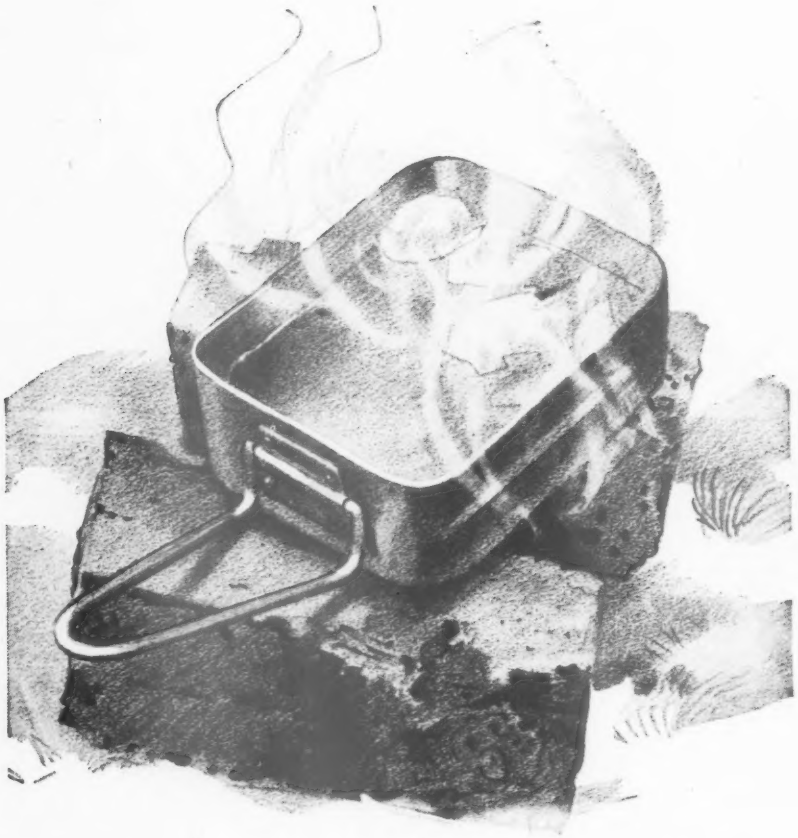
*They lived in a climatic belt where at that time areas of moderate humidity coincided with an average temperature of 70°F. The influence of this climate is demonstrated by the fact that, for 4,000 years, no civilisation comparable to Egypt's developed outside this belt until the brazier and roof smoke-hole had been replaced as a heating arrangement by the hypocaust and later by the chimney fireplace.

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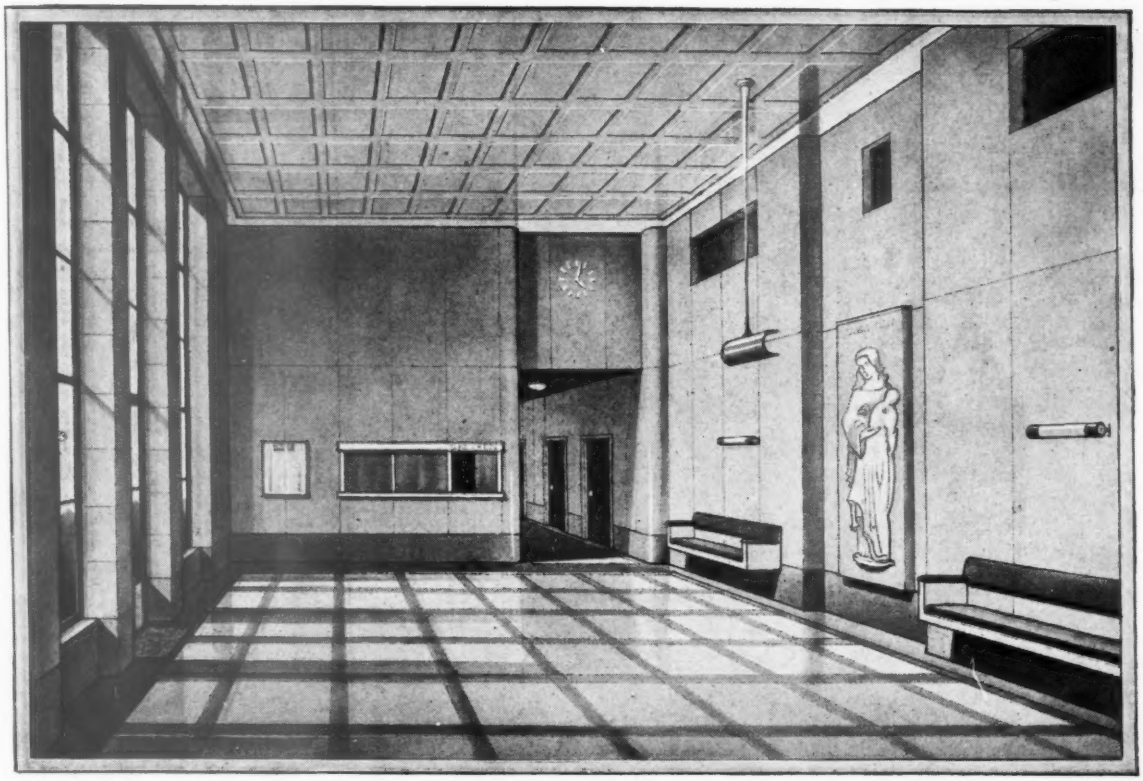
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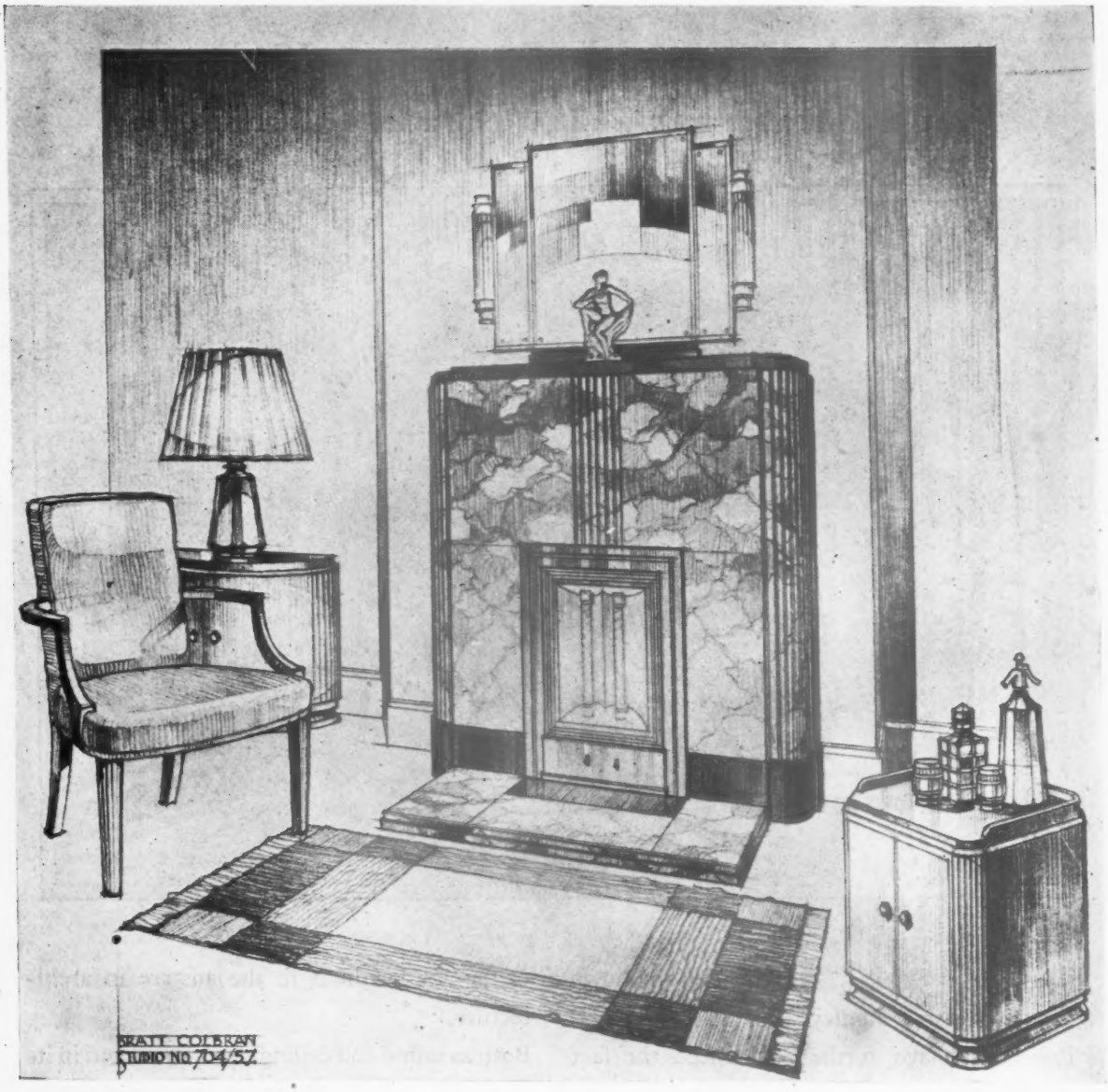
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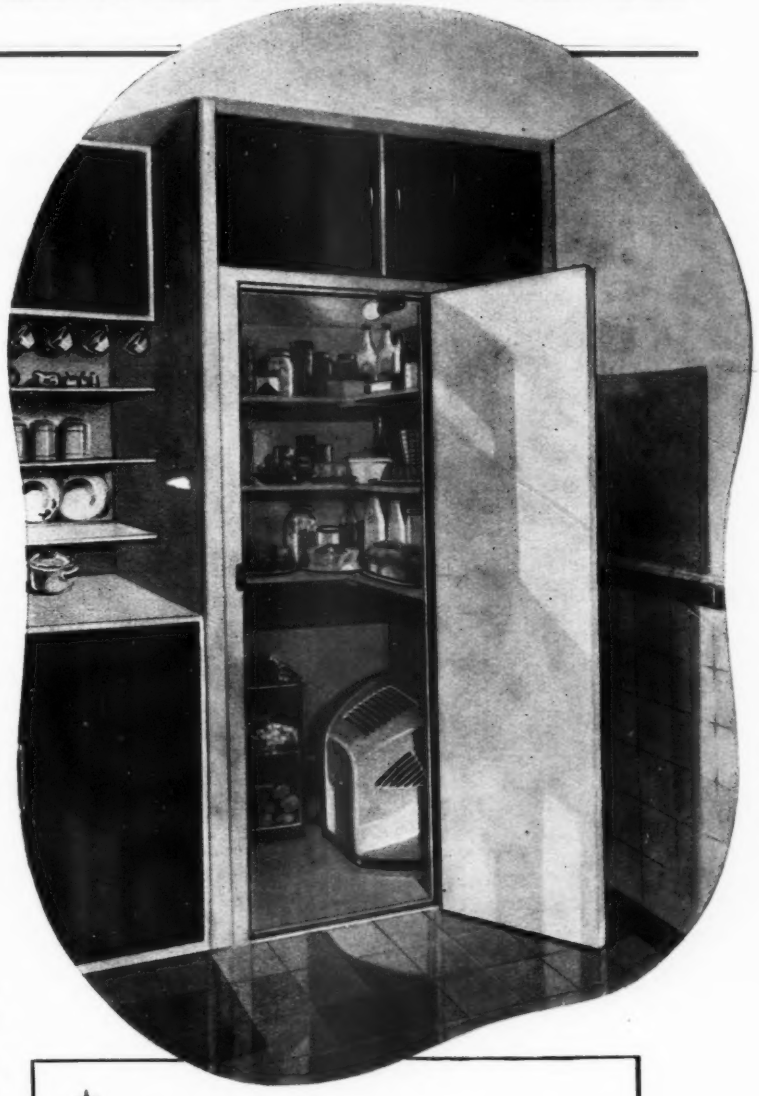
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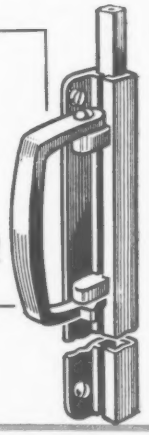
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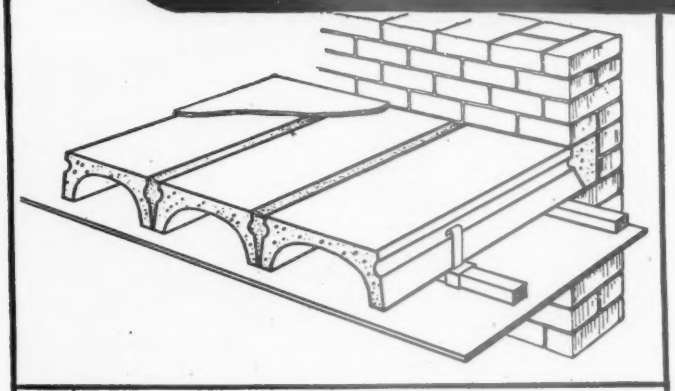
One of the troubles with pre-fabrication is that it's still new enough to provide a variety of assembly problems which can't be coped with by just saying—"Screws, bolts, etc. to suit." The right time to discuss assembly methods is while plans are still on the drawing board. Instead of mentioning here a list of some of the fastening methods suitable for pre-fabrication we think it's more useful to say that we're always willing to place our experience at the disposal of architects and consulting engineers who want to know which fastening methods really do suit any particular purpose.

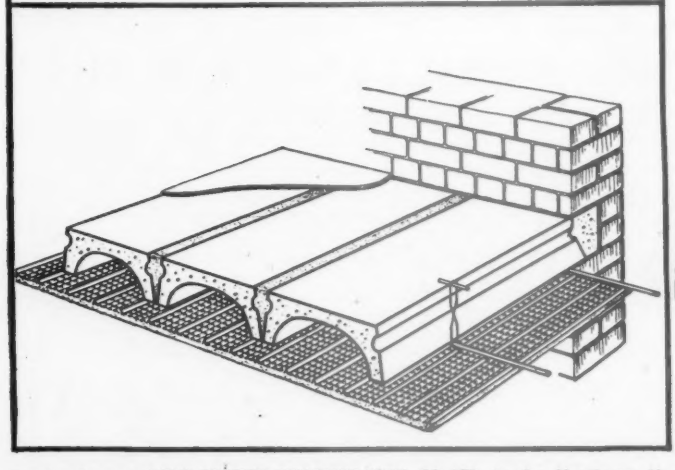
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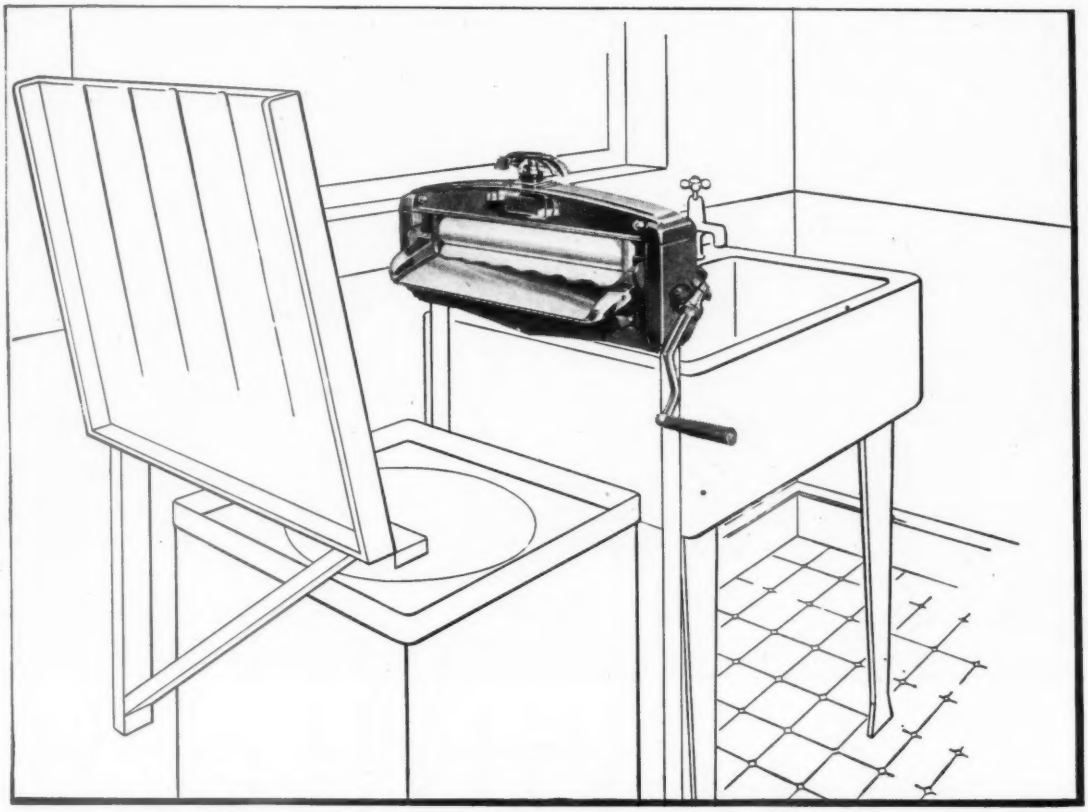
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"WHY GRANDMOTHER — what a bent back you have!"

"Because for years I stooped over a sink much too low for me, my dear."

"Why Grandmother — what a bad skin you've got!"

"That comes from a lifetime's toiling away on washdays, with a huge fire in the hottest weather to boil up my copper, my dear."

"Why Grandmother — what rough, red hands you have!"

"If you used the huge, heavy mangle I had to use, you'd have rough red hands, too, my dear."

But no. Grand-daughter is going to have no ugly hands, no bent shoulders, no ruined complexion. For she will run her new home in a new world. A world which plans kitchens for its housewives as it plans the most up-to-date factory for its workers.

A recent survey which has given careful thought to this question lays down the minimum requirements of a home-keeping woman. A sink of the worked-out correct height and depth, a removable or hinged draining board, a wash-boiler adjoining the sink and under the draining board. It lays stress, too, on the importance of always making space for a rubber-roller wringer, which ensures a perfect wash, with no aching backs or sore cramped hands. That means, of course, the finest of Wringers — the Acme.

A plan for a post-war home which did not include as its most important part kitchen-planning would be a poor plan. And kitchen-planning which did not give careful attention to the home laundry, would not be kitchen-planning at all.

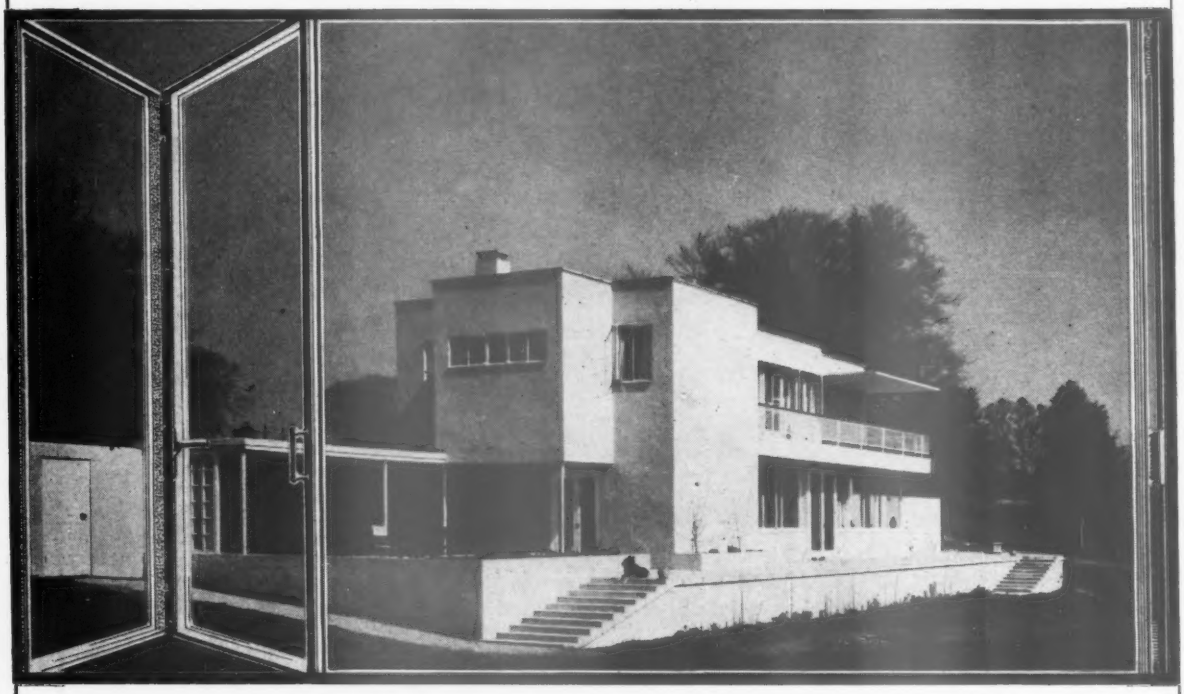
Home laundry conditions are laid stress on in surveys accepted and supported by Ministries and local authorities. One primary condition is that space should always be provided for a rubber-roller wringer. The wringer the housewife herself knows from experience is the best, is the Acme. That is the cleanser-wringer she will demand as part of the sink-unit in her future kitchen.

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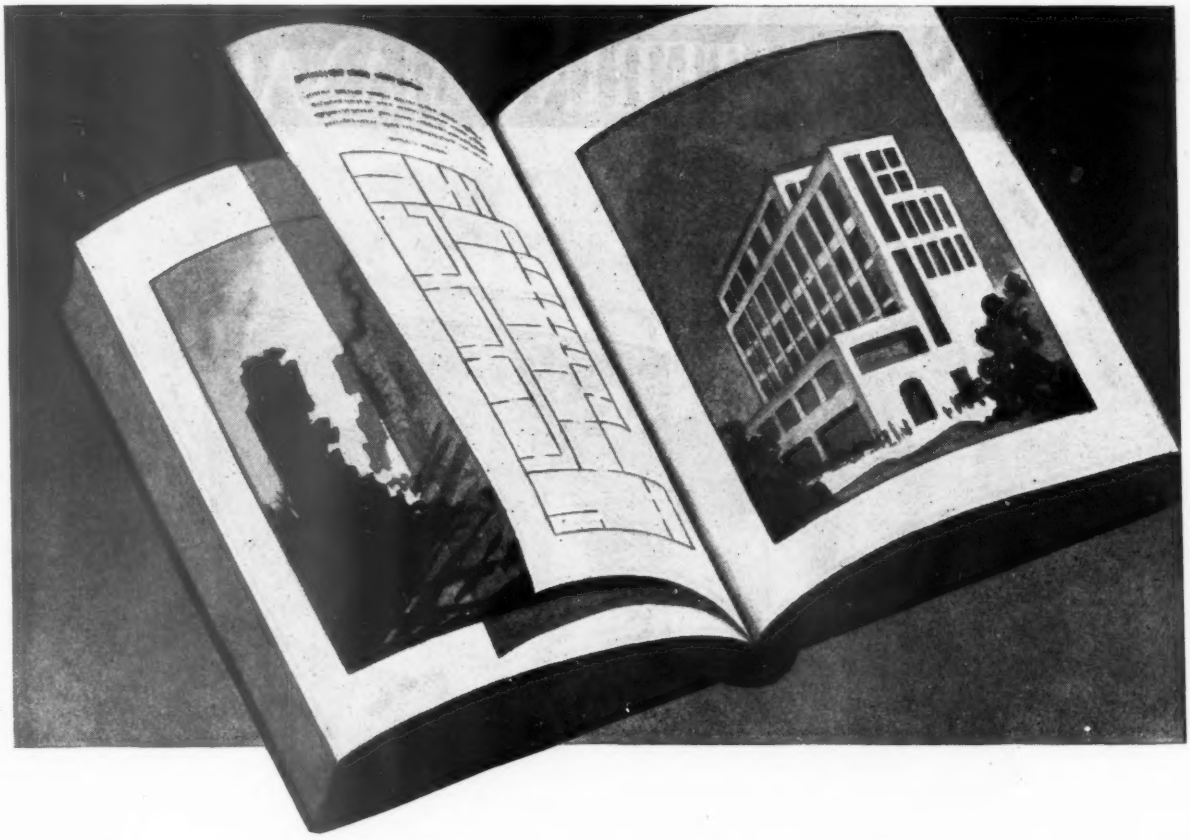
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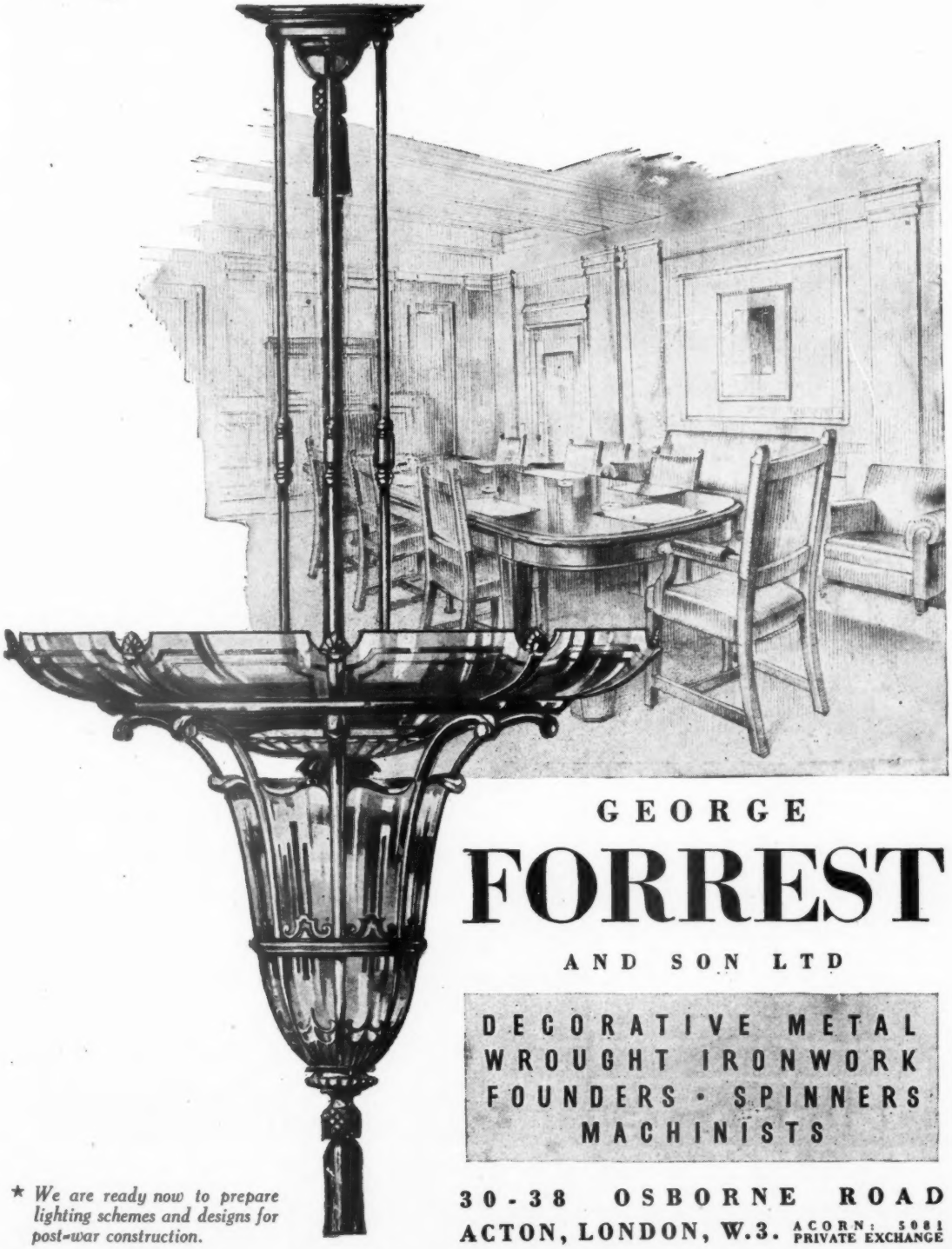
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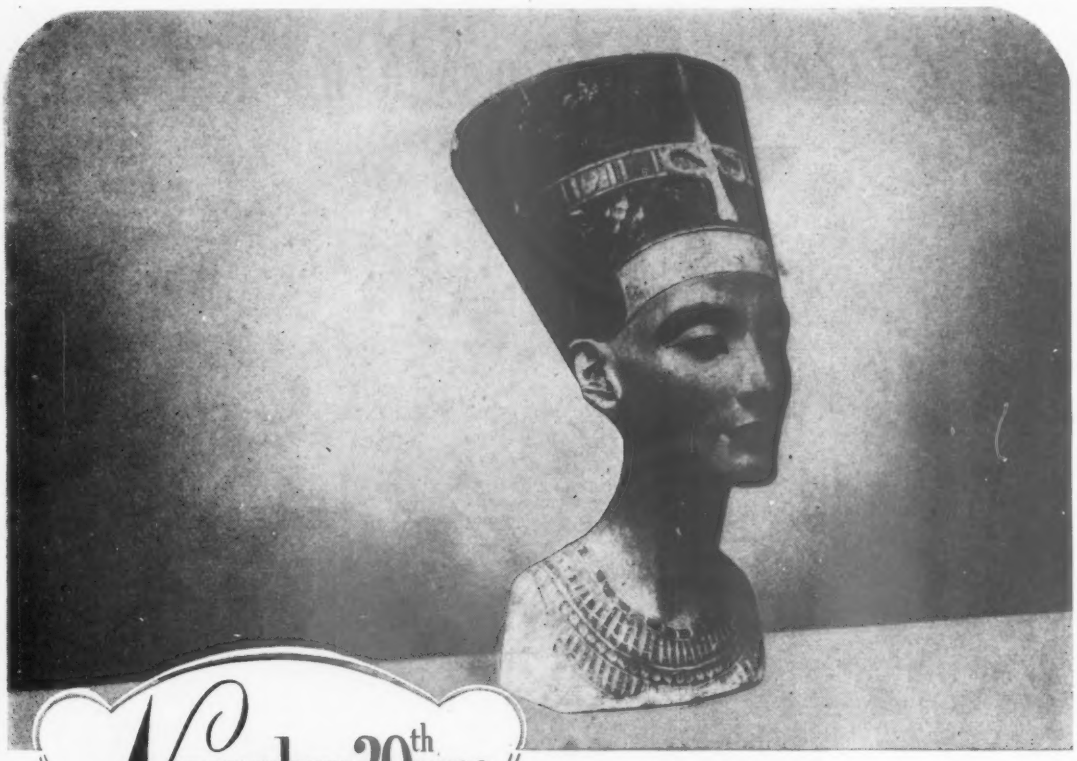
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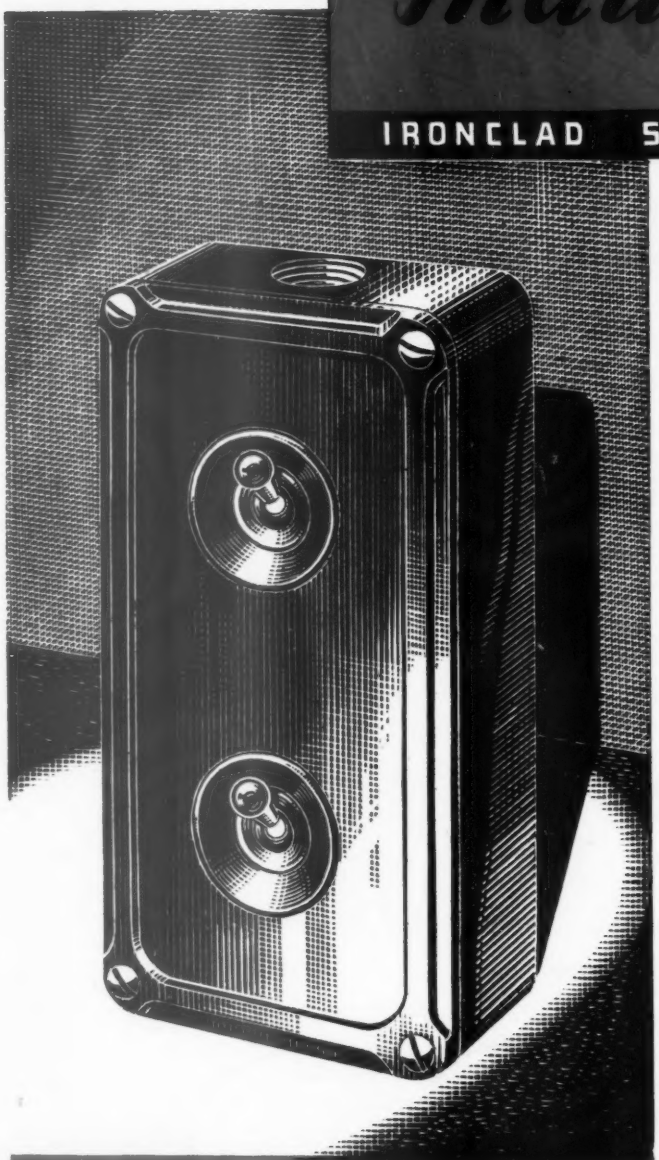
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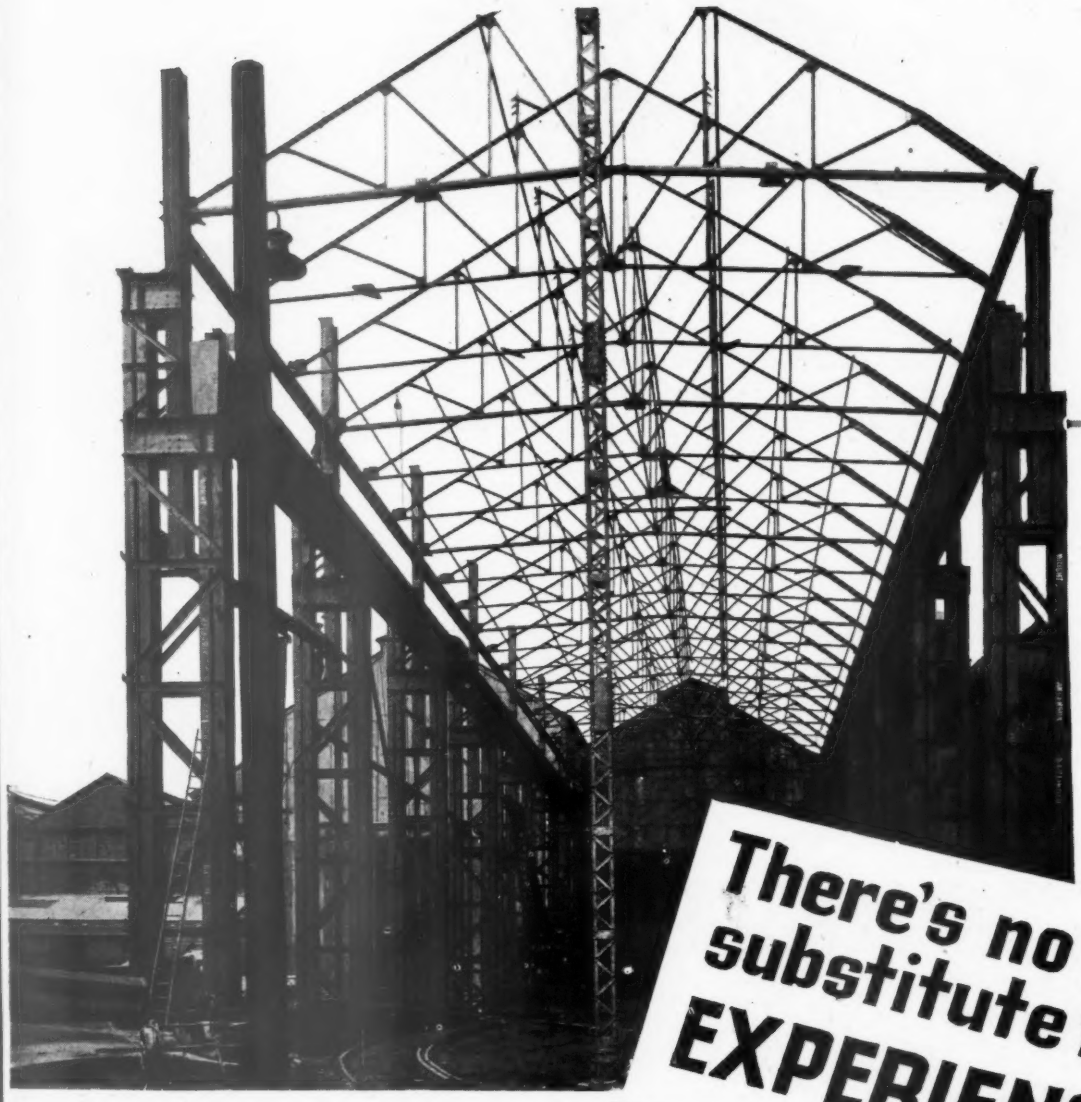
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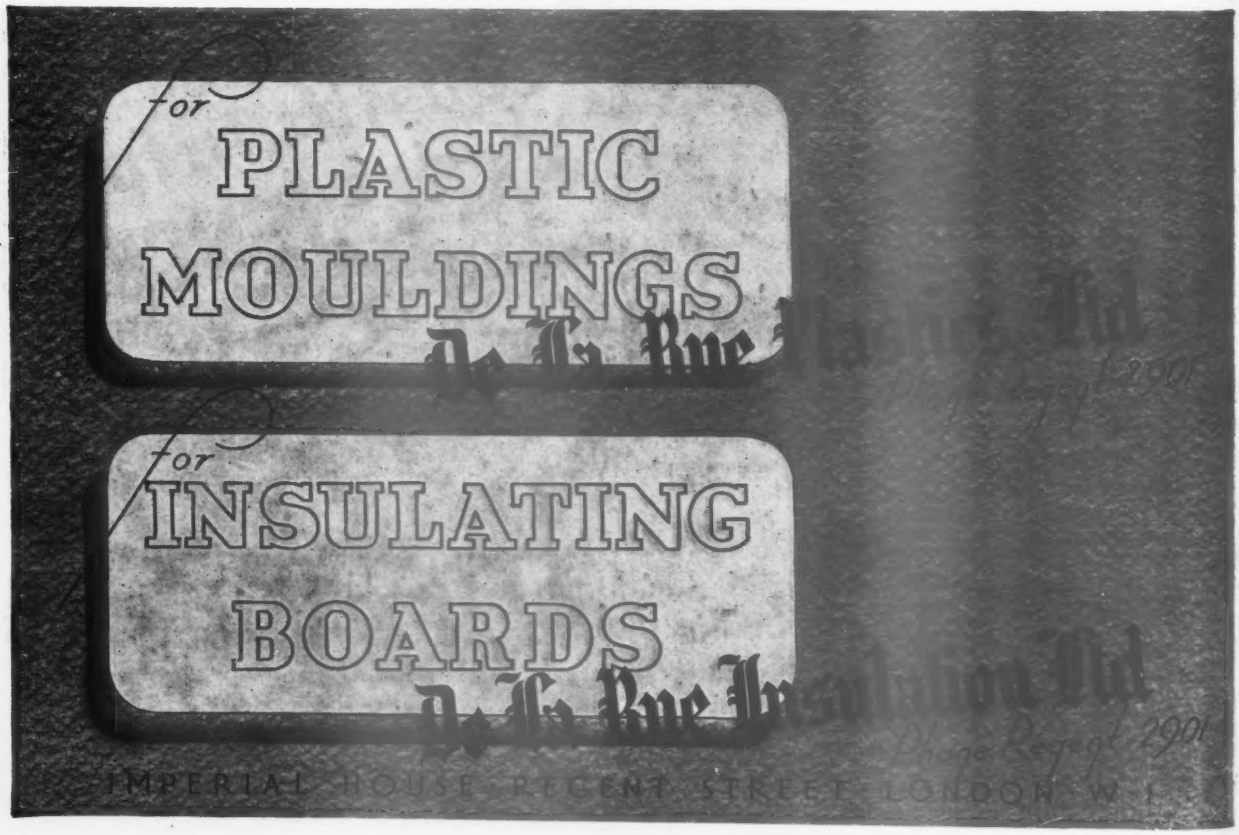
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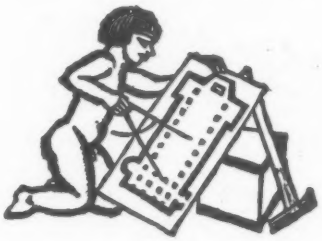
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DIARY FOR NOVEMBER DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Titles of exhibitions, lectures and papers are printed in italics. In the case of papers and lectures the authors' names come first. Sponsors are represented by their initials as given in the glossary of abbreviations on the front cover.

BIRMINGHAM. *Housing Equipment Exhibition.* At the West End Dance Hall, Suffolk Street, Birmingham. The exhibition, prepared by MOW, illustrates the principal items of housing equipment as recommended in *Housing Manual, 1944*, and the advances possible in the standard of equipment available in post-war housing as a result of the employment of mass production methods. (Sponsor, MOH). Nov. 2-11

CAMBRIDGE. *Rural Housing.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, BIAE). Nov. 2-6

COVENTRY. *Living in Cities.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, BIAE). Nov. 2-6

DURHAM. *When We Build Again.* Exhibition and film. (Sponsor, TCPA, in collaboration with Messrs. Cadbury Bros.) Nov. 12-18

HOLBEACH, SPALDING, LINCS. *The English Town—Its Continuity and Development.* Exhibition. (Sponsor, TCPA). DEC. 4-16

IPSWICH. *Homes to Live In.* Exhibition. At the Central Premises of the Industrial Co-operative Society. (Sponsor, BIAE). Nov. 2-6

LONDON: *Water Colour Drawings of H. S. Merritt.* Exhibition. At the Batsford Gallery, 15, North Audley Street, W.1. (Sponsor, Batsford, Ltd.). Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 2-3

Dr. R. F. Sudell. *The Garden* At 13, Suffolk Street, S.W.1. (Sponsor, HC). 1.15 p.m. Nov. 7

ICE Presidential Address. By F. E. Wentworth-Shields. At the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, S.W.1. 5.30 p.m. Nov. 7

F. C. Fuke. *Electrical Accessories for Domestic Purposes; some Notes on their Design and Installation.* At Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2. (Sponsor, IEE). 5.30 p.m. Nov. 9

A. W. Kenyon, Chairman of the RIBA Central Planning Advisory Committee. *The National Plan.* At the RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1. (Sponsor, RIBA). 5.30 p.m. Nov. 14

T. P. Bennett, late Director of Works, Ministry of Works. *Principles of Organization and Management as Applied to the Building Industry.* At the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C.1. First of three lectures and discussions. Fees, three lectures 5s., single lectures 2s. Outline syllabus of lecture. Building—craft industry in 1844-1894, complicated industrial organization in 1944. The burden of legislation—compulsory and permissive. The conception of a building scheme. An industry of virgin projects. The contribution of the building owner, the architect, the consulting engineer, the quantity surveyor. (Sponsor, University of London in co-operation with the Institute of Industrial Administration). 5.30 p.m. Nov. 14

Guy Howard Humphreys, President of the Institution of Sanitary Engineers. *Some modern trends in Sanitary Engineering.* Bossom Gift Lecture. At the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. Chairman, Alfred C. Bossom. (Sponsor, Chadwick Trust). 2.30 p.m. Nov. 14

D. V. H. Smith, Consulting Engineer, Glasgow. *District Heating and the Smokeless City.* At the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. Chairman, G. L. Pepler, Member of the Council of the Institute. 2.30 p.m. Nov. 15

G. E. Moore. *Planning the Future Electricity Meters.* At Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2. (Sponsor, IEE). 5.30 p.m. Nov. 17

The Effect of Welding on Electricity Supply. Discussion. At the Institute of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2. (Sponsor, IEE). 5.30 p.m. Nov. 20

The Insulation of Buildings, Domestic and Industrial. Fifth paper in series on *Thermal Insulation.* At the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Storeys Gate, S.W.2. 2.30 p.m. DEC. 13

MANCHESTER. Brains Trust arranged by the Institute of Fuel. *The Efficient utilization of Industrial Waste and Town's Refuse.* At the Engineer's Club, Manchester. 2.30 p.m. Nov. 8

NEWS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1944
No. 2597. VOL. 100

News 319

Presentation to Sir Ian and Lady MacAlister 320

This Week's Leading Article .. 321

Astragal's Notes and Topics .. 322

USA Planning Exhibition .. 324

Information Centre 334

Societies and Institutions .. 335

Though no feature in the JOURNAL *is without value for someone, there are often good reasons why certain news calls for special emphasis. The* JOURNAL'S *starring system is designed to give this emphasis, but without prejudice to the unstarred items which are often no less important.*

★ *means spare a second for this, it will probably be worth it.*

★★ *means important news, for reasons which may or may not be obvious.*

Any feature marked with more than two stars is very big building news indeed.

Two houses in Queen Anne's Gate have been GIVEN TO THE NATIONAL TRUST.

Lord Zetland, presiding at the annual meeting of the National Trust, announced that Queen Mary had consented to become president—an office held for many years by Princess Louise. A new gift to the Trust since the printing of the annual report was announced, consisting of two houses, Nos. 40 and 42, Queen Anne's Gate, by Mrs. Murray Smith—"two admirable London houses," Lord Zetland described them. Mrs. Murray Smith had previously proposed to bequeath this freehold property in her will, but had now announced her intention to hand it over immediately. The Trust had not yet had time to consider the future of this gift, but it might go far to solve the problem of a suitable headquarters. Since the printing of the report a grant had also been made from the Trust cathedral fund to the Tewkesbury Abbey Fund. Lord Esher, chairman of the Finance Committee, said the Trust, like other owners of property, had not been able to do the work of repair, improvement, and planning which it desired, but it had been able to put by a sum which would enable these things to be done when labour became available. The Trust had not got anything like the properties it ought to have. Hundreds remained at the mercy of time and the greater threat of the exploiter. The Trust wanted to save these places, and it wanted more money to do it.



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WPD/A7

From AN ARCHITECT'S *Commonplace Book*

THE INDUSTRIALIST'S SLAVE CITY. [*From* Jules Verne, *by Kenneth Allott* (*The Cresset Press*).] Jules Verne's only picture of regimentation in industry, of mechanical efficiency leading to the destruction of liberty, was motivated by patriotic reasons. Herr Schultze in *The Begum's Fortune*, sets up his industrial city, Stahlstadt. In a bare rocky plain the workmen live in uniform wooden huts outside the black mass of the city of steel. Birds and insects avoid the place like a plague, and a butterfly has not been seen in living memory. . . . "In the centre of these settlements, at the foot of Coal-Butts, those inexhaustible mountains of coal, rises a dark colossal mass, a conglomeration of barrack-like buildings pierced by symmetrically-placed windows, covered with red roofs and towered over by a forest of cylindrical chimneys which vomit continuous torrents of smoky vapour from their thousand mouths. The sky is covered by a black curtain shot momentarily through with the glowing flashes of red. The wind carries a distant growling like thunder or a great storm at sea, but more regular and more awful." Apart from the central tower and the offices for designers and draughtsmen, the city is divided into twenty-four sections, each of which is absolutely cut off from all the others. Expulsion is the penalty when a worker tries to enter a sector other than that in which he is engaged. This division of function, resulting in ignorance of all the processes but one of an industry, is believed by Verne to be the expression of Dr. Schultze's love of discipline, but it may be regarded quite as easily as a symbol of mass-production methods. . . . The Gospel of Work was the one fundamental message of the industrial era.

The National Union of Building Trades Workers has passed a resolution supporting any action of the executive council to secure a general ADVANCE IN WAGES up to 2s. 6d. an hour.

The present minimum is 2s. an hour. The resolution was passed at the annual conference of the National Union, held at Morecambe. The general secretary, Mr. Luke Fawcett, said that the employers had offered an increase of 2d. an hour "in stages of 1d. and two halfpennies over a period expiring in November, 1945." He advised the conference to reject that offer. Mr. R. Coppock, secretary of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, said they had no power to strike, and he was not willing to create a situation that would lead to one. The Federation would continue negotiations with the employers.

★

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Georgian Group, Lord Cranborne, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, said, If the GEORGIAN GROUP was needed before the war, how much more is it needed to-day?

Though the greatest danger is now apparently over so far as Hitler is concerned, it will be a great mistake, Lord Cranborne continued, to assume that there are no further perils facing Georgian architecture. He said: Unfortunately, Hitler was not the only danger that it would have to encounter; there are other foes within. Not the least among them are local authorities. I do not say that in any spirit of criticism of local authorities as such, but one of the blind spots in many, if by no means all, of them is a lack of appreciation of the beauties of architecture. Some of them are capable of sweeping away the most lovely houses if they consider they stand in the way of new planning schemes or if, alternatively, they think that their replacement is likely to increase the rateable value of the area. I fear that the term "obsolescent areas" in the Town and Country Planning Bill might be used by a certain type of local authority as an excuse to do away with many buildings of great architectural merit. Local authorities are not the only sinners. There is also the private owner, anxious to turn an honest penny. Here is a danger likely to increase, for taxation is expected to continue very high, and many people who own old houses that they love and would prefer to live in will not be able to afford to live in them any longer. Finally, there are some who are ambitious enough to think they can produce something very much better than the artists of the past. In that category they must put a number of people who really ought to know better.

A resolution passed by the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives URGES CONTROL OF ALL FORMS OF PREFABRICATION—in the factory and on the site.

The resolution, on post-war reconstruction, was moved by the London Regional Council at the annual conference of the Federation at York. It urged control, as far as possible, of all forms of prefabrication, from the construction of units in the factory to the assembling operations on the site. It demanded that the Ministry of Health's model by-laws on building and sanitation should be revised to meet modern requirements of the highest standards and enforced on a national scale, and that priority should be given to housing, essential schools, and hospitals as distinct from luxury flats and stores.

Between June and August last LAMBETH PALACE WAS DAMAGED TWICE by flying bombs.

Other buildings damaged in Lambeth included St. Mary's Church, St. Michael's Church, Stockwell, Kenyon Baptist Church, the Eighth Church of Christ, Scientist, St. Thomas's Hospital, and Lambeth Hospital. Some 3,050 removals to new homes were carried out by contractors engaged by the council. The open-air theatre in Brockwell Park was destroyed.

★

Sir Miles Thomas says: A GAS GRID CAN DECENTRALIZE INDUSTRY.

Addressing a meeting of Liverpool business men, Sir Miles Thomas, vice-chairman of the Nuffield organization, said: The existence of a magnificent system of electric grid distribution throughout the country turns one's thoughts, perhaps naturally, to a scheme of the same sort, on however modified a scale, for the gas we must use in our factories. A high pressure gas grid is no dream; it can be developed as an economical reality, a modern means of thermal transportation. In this respect, we might be enabled to break away from the intense localization of industry that has led to some of the worst features of our urban life.

★

At the annual meeting of the British Standards Institution LORD WOOLTON WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT and Sir Percy Ashley, Vice-President.

Sir William Larke succeeds Sir Percy Ashley as chairman of the General Council. After giving a brief review of the work done by the Institution as a direct aid to the war effort, Sir Percy Ashley said: If industrial standards are to meet general acceptance they must be prepared and promulgated by either a Government Department or an independent body—independent, that is, set up and maintained by the national industry as a whole, with Government support but not under Government control. Such an organization has been built up during 40 years in the British Standards Institution. That British industry would prefer it to any form of Government Standards bureau I have no doubt, just as I have no doubt that though it may be necessary in some cases for Government to enforce the observance of standards, yet broadly progress will be most widespread and continuous if the policy of standardization by consent is consistently pursued, and if whatever changes in organization and methods may be made from time to time the principles on which this Institution has been so successfully built up and developed are steadily maintained.



At the RIBA on October 18, Sir Ian MacAlister, who retired from the Secretaryship of the Institute at the end of last year, was presented with an address and a cheque subscribed by members in recognition of his thirty-seven years of service. Lady MacAlister was presented with a silver rose bowl. The ceremony had been delayed some time owing to Sir Ian's recent accident, from which he has barely recovered. Sir Ian succeeded W. J. Locke, the novelist, as secretary in 1907, since when he has, in the President's words, proved himself to be "one of the outstanding personalities in the 100 years' history of the Institute." All the living Past-Presidents of the RIBA attended the presentation and paid tribute to the retiring Secretary. Extracts from some of their speeches and from those of others present, who included the High Commissioner for Canada, are given on pages 335 and 336 of this issue. In the photo above are, left, the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, High Commissioner for Canada; centre, Sir Ian MacAlister; and right, Mr. Percy Thomas, the President of the Royal Institute.

★

The Department of Health for Scotland advises local authorities to ACQUIRE LAND NOW for their building programmes.

The circular, *Housing in the Transitional Period after the War*, also asks local authorities to proceed now with the preliminary development of the land with roads and services; declares that to save time the Secretary of State is arranging that standard plans, including elevations and full working drawings, will be made available to the authorities who want them; and invites all authorities to delegate powers to their housing committees. Suggesting a review of their administrative machinery so that when the time comes house-building can proceed with the minimum of delay, the circular states: Any authorities who have not armed their housing committees with delegated powers should now seriously consider doing so. The Secretary of State also urges local authorities to employ registered architects to prepare their own layout and type plans. He says: Most authorities accepted this advice before the war, but some did not, with results which in certain cases were not entirely satisfactory. The magnitude of the building operations to be undertaken after the war presents an unprecedented opportunity to enhance the appearance and amenities of the towns and countryside of Scotland and makes it more important than ever that the preparation of housing plans should be placed in the hands of those who are best qualified to undertake the work.

After the war Margate is to build a HOLIDAY CAMP FOR A THOUSAND VISITORS.

Eight hundred and eighty visitors will be in terraced bungalows, facing grass courtyards and flower beds, and 130 in a special park for caravans. There will be a swimming pool, heated in the spring and autumn, a paddling pool for children, and visitors will be provided with an all-in domestic service. The site proposed for the Camp—a dell, overlooked by trees and fields—is about 10 minutes' walk from the sea. The Camp is estimated to cost £100,000.

★

The Federation of British Industries proposes that the Government should SET UP A STATE-FINANCED CENTRAL DESIGN COUNCIL.

The proposal is made by the Federation with a view to raising the standard of industrial design in this country, and it is suggested that the Design Council should act as a centre of information, advice and propaganda. In a memorandum submitted to the Board of Trade, the Federation also urges that the various industries concerned should establish industrial design centres to conduct research in co-operation with the proposed council, whose members, it is suggested, should be nominated by the Government after consultation with national bodies representing industry and design. It is pointed out that, although many of our industries—men's wear and furnishing fabrics are quoted as examples—have led the world in the quality of their design, others have lagged behind, with the result that markets have been lost at home and

abroad. Apart from organizing exhibitions regularly in London and elsewhere, the national council, it is proposed, should advise on the purchase of furniture and domestic and office equipment by Government departments and British Embassies and on Stationery Office publications. It should also co-operate with the Ministry of Education in such matters as industrial art training and the place of art appreciation in general education; organize prize competitions and maintain scholarships and studentships for study at home and abroad; and possess centrally and in the provinces an art library and reading rooms.

Mr. Craven-Ellis, M.P., is co-operating with the Social Credit Party, the People's Common Law Parliament and other groups in a CAMPAIGN AT LEWISHAM to demand (a) the repeal of the Bank Charter Act of 1844, and (b) interest free loans for housing.

The co-operating organizations will prepare the draft of a Private Bill to make these demands effective, which will be submitted to the Local Authorities when sufficient public demand has been built up. The Bill will then be submitted to Parliament by the Local Authorities. Mr. Craven-Ellis is also organizing a Referendum for his demand for the publication of a Government White Paper "explaining to the people how money is created and issued, and educating the people in regard to financial matters," a publication which could be used to "build up opposition to the Bretton Woods Proposals." The SCP and PCLP are also co-operating in collecting signatures for this Referendum. The SCP states, however, that though it supports these measures, it adopts a cautious attitude towards Mr. Craven-Ellis, because his plan for Financing the Rehousing of Britain is "no more than a mortgage-plan, a plan for robbing Peter to pay Paul, and would most certainly lead to still greater confusion in the fight for a Debtfree Britain."

*

Lord Latham: We seem well on the way to REPEATING THE BLUNDER OF THE LAST WAR.

Speaking at Bishop's Stortford, Lord Latham, leader of the LCC, said: I have the gravest misgivings that under the growing pressure of clamant demand for houses much will be done which will hinder real planning and which in a few years' time we shall all keenly regret. Such was the case after the last war, and we seem well on the way to repeating the blunder after this one. What is required is co-ordinated national policy, backed up by action, and by giving the local authorities the powers and the financial resources to get on with the job.

The following churches, parsonages and church halls were DAMAGED IN CANTERBURY BY FLYING BOMBS.

Churches: Nine completely destroyed, 28 seriously damaged, 129 slightly damaged. Parsonages: Two completely destroyed, seven seriously damaged, 76 slightly damaged. Church halls: Eleven completely destroyed, four seriously damaged, 20 slightly damaged.

PLANNING NEEDS PUBLICITY

COMMENTING on the County of London Plan, Mr. Frederick P. Clark (formerly Director of the Regional Plan Association of New York) sees "little in the plan impossible of accomplishment. But," he adds, "that was also true of Wren's plan of rebuilding London after the Great Fire. It is not primarily engineering or financial feasibility which determines whether city plans are translated into actual accomplishment. Rising over all considerations is general public understanding of the opportunities and advantages to be secured from following the plan in rebuilding, and an active public demand that the plan be carried out."*

However, in the battle with the giants, it appears that fear is a stronger incentive than enthusiasm. Against the most fearful have been pitted the most formidable weapons, but against a giant such as squalor, who is more distasteful than fearful, it is encouraging, through all the controversy over methods of attack, to hear even the sound of a pop-gun. Perhaps when all are secure from want, armed against disease and roofed against the elements, when life lacks nothing but joy and beauty, a revolt may arise against squalor which even surpasses that which has arisen against want. But to every creative planner the distant date is the opportunity lost. The desire must be aroused now to acquire the knowledge which breeds enthusiasm and discrimination, which is not content merely to revolt against and to combat squalor, but which must also rebuild in its place with the fullest use of the resources of science and imagination.

There are many agencies working valiantly to advance this knowledge. The County of London, Plymouth and other less affluent bodies have produced imaginative plans with great popular appeal. The Royal Institute of British Architects has exhibited a London Regional Plan, and has a national plan pending. The Town and Country Planning Association is ceaselessly active with public luncheons and conferences, and the Housing Centre with the preparation of travelling exhibitions. The latter is now exhibitor of one of the best pieces of planning publicity yet seen in this country—New York Museum of Modern Art's *Look at Your Neighbourhood* exhibition.† But these efforts are impeded both by an absence of agreement and co-ordination and by a lack of sufficient resources to make a wide enough appeal to the public. To fill the gap a central agency of planning publicity and information is needed, one such as was described by Misha Black in *How shall we put planning across?*‡ Whether or not this agency is a department of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning must be the subject of further consideration. It might certainly provide one means of persuading this bashful Ministry to divulge its secrets, since there is evidence that much valuable information is being gathered there.

* London Plan and New York Plan. Architectural Review, September, 1944.
† See pp. 324-333.
‡ Physical Planning No. 17. Architects' Journal 2.12.43.

Even with a central agency there is still a large gap. For it must be remembered that central guidance is a stimulant, and unless an outlet is provided for the desires which it is its purpose to heighten, it will, in common with other stimulants, merely produce a hangover. With this problem, as with all others which depend for their solution upon a fuller understanding and appreciation of art and science, new methods of experimental education must provide the key. It has been truly said that with the death of George IV " almost for the last time the critical tribunal to which a poet submitted his work was composed, not of an *avant-garde* of the poet's contemporaries, but of a circle comprising all educated men." In place of " poet" might just as well be substituted " architect" or " visual planner." Today our aim must be to expand the perimeter of that educated circle to include all men. We cannot, although many have tried, revive the esoteric splendour of Carlton House or Marble Hill, but we should everywhere help to re-create the spirit which produced it.

The exhibition which fills this issue of the JOURNAL is a first-rate example of the way to go about it, for such publicity is one of the most effective methods of popular education. Without vastly increased activity in this field we cannot hope to arouse that sympathetic understanding and active public demand which is needed to realize the greatest opportunity this country has ever had to refashion its environment.



The Architects' Journal
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Telephone: Vigilant 0087-9

NOTES & TOPICS

COMPENSATION CONTROVERSY

The dispute over the compensation clause in the Town and Country Planning Bill, which, it was at one time thought, might have precipitated a major political crisis, ended after a heated debate with a safe majority for the Government. However, the views expressed gave a strong foretaste of what may be expected when future Bills appear which depend for their acceptance on a solution to the problem of compensation for property acquired by the State. The whole question is, in fact, troubled by fundamental differences of political principle.

*

For instance, to Mr. Aneurin Bevan the debate appeared as " a squalid scramble " amongst property owners to distribute the " swag." He correctly pointed out that the whole question is one of equity between the property owners themselves. It is not a question which arises for those who do not possess property. It is quite true that had we a Socialist government, and had it secured national ownership of land, the question would not arise in this form. But we do not have a Socialist government; we have a Coalition government with a Tory majority. We are therefore faced with a situation where members of the community do own land privately, and where many are apparently to continue, at least until the next general election, to do so. Some solution to the question of equity in compensating them must, therefore, be arrived at if planning is to go ahead.

*

To make the problem more difficult we are faced with a situation where the accepted conservative principle—that property acquired in the interest of the community should be paid for at current market values—cannot be adhered to. For, at the present time, in the words of Mr. Morrison, " there is no firm basis in modern market value." The government, therefore, has proposed an *ad hoc* solution to meet this situation for the period of the next five years.

*

The compromise it has arrived at (in short, that the value of land compulsorily acquired should be ascertained by reference to prices current at March 1, 1939, with supplementary compensation for owner-occupiers up to 30 per cent.) was opposed by a section of the Conservative Party and a number of Liberal National members. Their amendment, on which the division took place, was moved by Mr. Hore Belisha. It proposed that the assessment of compensation by reference to 1939 prices should be " increased by such sum as the Treasury shall determine to be equal to the amount by which, having regard to the economic conditions affecting the interest in such land, the value thereof has increased since that date." In other words, whereas the Uthwatt report proposed a 1939 ceiling and the government propose a 1939 floor with a ceiling graded, very roughly, according to the stature of an owner's claim, the amendment proposed to raise the ceiling in all cases to 194?

*

The main objection raised by those who supported the amendment was that it was unfair to discriminate between owner-occupier and owner-investor. Mr. Morrison's reply to this was to point out that the increase is given to the owner-occupier solely because he is the *occupier;* it is not given to him as the owner of the land; it is, in fact, " compensation for disturbance." As regards compensation to owner-investors he pointed out that " if, after this struggle " (referring to the war not the controversy), " an investor can get back approximately to his 1939 position, he is not doing too badly."

*

It is clear that in several aspects this Bill departs from established conservative principles; it is also clear that had it not departed from them no working solution could have been found. Yet it is still a very clumsy

Bill. Further progress with reconstruction legislation will, without doubt, mean further departures, it can only be hoped that the continuance of a Coalition government does not mean a continued series of stoppages such as have occurred during the progress of the Town and Country Planning Bill, 1944.

TEMPORARY HOUSING BILL

The Housing (Temporary Accommodation) Bill has now passed through its Second Reading, and awaits the committee stage. The debate was a long one, and the general attitude of members to the Bill was, "We cannot oppose it under the present serious housing difficulties, but there are many things we do not like about the Government's temporary housing plans, and there are in particular many things we do not like about the Portal House."

*

Finance, and the question of subsidies and rents, was one of the chief worries, and Mr. Craven-Ellis went so far as to suggest that an adequate solution of not merely housing difficulties but rebuilding in general was impossible without a reform of the monetary system itself. The financial problem apart, however, many members felt strongly that something better than the Portal house could have been produced, and most of the arguments put forward by the JOURNAL in the past were expressed during the debate.

*

For instance, Mr. Henderson Stewart (Fife, East), stressed the importance of siting by saying that the Portal house might look well "in the surroundings of beautiful beech trees and rhododendron bushes in flower, but what would the houses look like in a mining community with the coal-bings as neighbours?" Mr. Bossom (Maidstone) thought that "in the Portal house there is a lot of confusion as to whether it is temporary or permanent. I prophesy . . . that if it is properly maintained, it will last much longer than 10 years." Mr. Buchanan (Glasgow, Gorbals) said "quite frankly, it is a good house for a married couple with no children. The Portal house would be all right if you proposed to regulate families to two, by circulating birth control information."

*

The JOURNAL was twice mentioned in the debate by Mr. Stewart, who told the house that he had the authority of the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL and of a great many architects and many public-spirited men in the building trade for the point of view he was presenting. Later in the debate he quoted extracts from the A.J. leader of June 22, which called for a flexible system rather than a one-type house, because, as he said, "it represents clearly what seems to be the right view on the matter and expresses admirably the view that I have tried to express more than once."

*

There is a good deal of muddled thought on the housing question, as this debate clearly revealed, especially so between the words Prefabricated, Temporary and Permanent. The whole matter is surely perfectly simple. We must have decent accommodation as quickly as possible. Probably, through standardization and factory production, so-called permanent houses (if it is right that *any* houses should to-day be considered permanent—a debatable question) could be as quickly erected as the kind of temporary houses proposed by the Government. Therefore let us have mass-produced, truly temporary houses on the lines of the TVA trailer houses that are (1) flexible, and (2) mobile.

*

And let them be properly designed. (The cost of good design is *not* "prohibitive.") Then the fear expressed in the debate by Captain Cobb, M.P. for Preston, need not come true—that "a great part of England's green and pleasant land will be utterly destroyed from the æsthetic point of view."

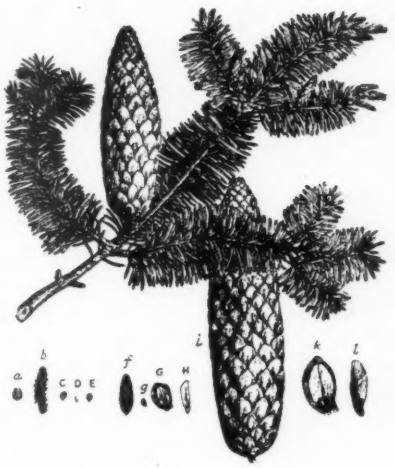
POETS' CORNER

SIR CHRISTOPHER SPEAKS

Though ARP was laggard, ever higher
Mounting the flames when on that fateful day
In Sixteen Sixty-Six the City lay
Like cindered corpse upon a funeral pyre;
To fight that other—planned and pencilled—fire
Which I had lit for London, grim and gay.
And soon enough they quenched it all away,
Nor this time did they fail or flag or tire.

But now there's hope, for who can quench a flame
If there's no flame to quench? Who can put out
A fire that has no heat and does not burn?
Light one!—or let my ghost's undying shame
Haunt you, Lord Mayors and Aldermen of Doubt!
My chance has gone; would you now miss your turn?

EDWARD LEWIS



From British Woodland Trees

BRITISH TREES

Everyone is familiar with S. R. Badmin's Puffin Book on *Trees in Britain*. It is a brilliant introduction to the subject for child and parent alike. For those foresters and students of silviculture who wish to take their study a stage further, no better book could have been written than *British Woodland Trees*, by H. L. Edlin. A Batsford publication at 12s. 6d. the book is both exciting to read and scientifically serious at the same time.

*

There are over 500 pictures, including some exquisite photographs and a number of Miller's woodcuts from John Evelyn's *Silva* (the 1776 edition). The woodcuts have unfortunately suffered somewhat in scale and reproduction. Here we may learn the meaning of such words as epicormic, hypogeal, lenticel, mycorhiza, peduncle, raceme and umbo. We note also that the elm is cousin to the nettle, and that the lime is related to the hollyhock.

*

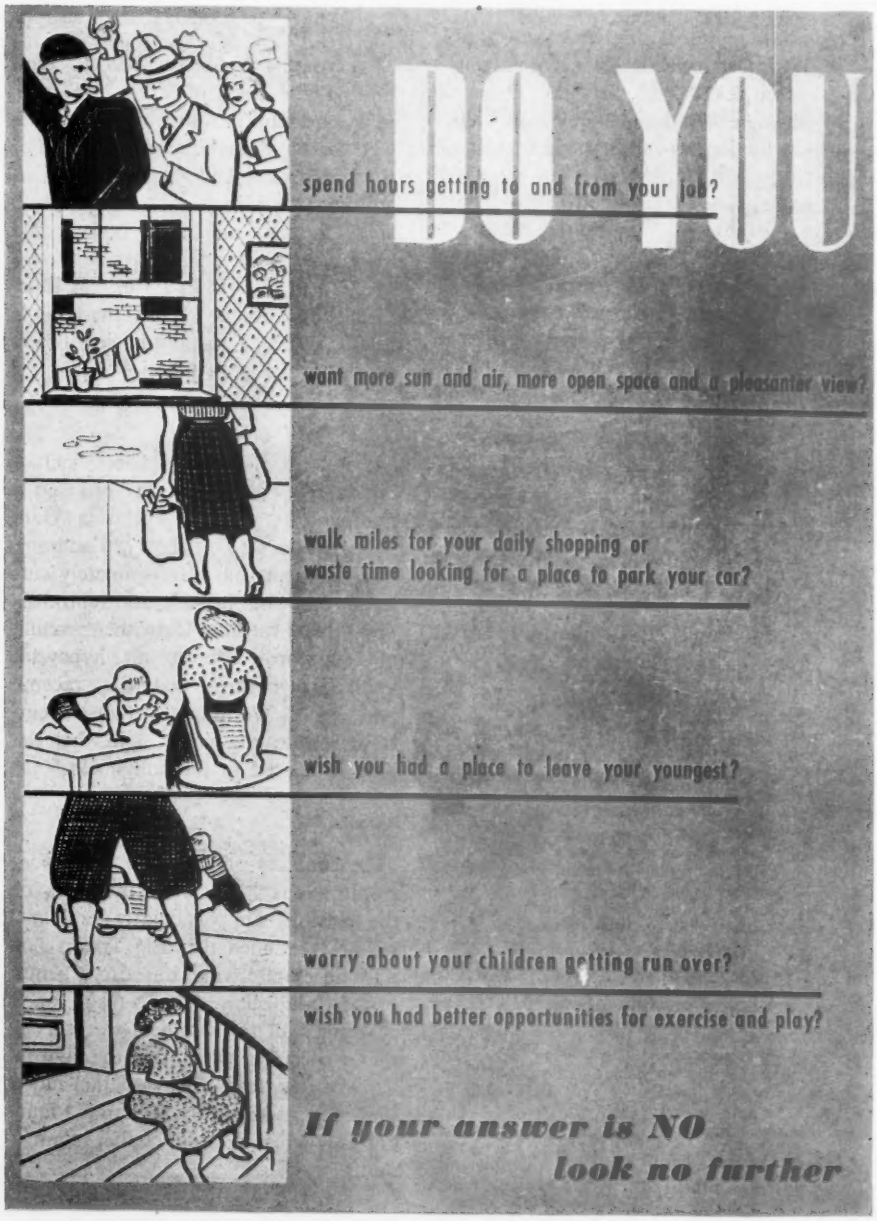
The chapters on what Cobbett apostrophized as "villainous members of the fir-tribe" are particularly good, and we are reminded that Big Tree is not only an empire wine, but also a genus of the Californian Sierra Nevada, once covering half the world, a tree so big that a specimen which saw the light in Cæsar's day, to-day may contain more timber in its single trunk than is found on five acres of good conifer plantation.

ASTRAGAL

U S A P L A N N I N G

E X H I B I T I O N

The New York Museum of Modern Art's "Look at your Neighbourhood" Exhibition is the first one it has sponsored which was designed from the start for mass-production. Two hundred copies have been printed for sale or rent to local housing authorities and schools in the USA. Its designer is Rudolf Mock, graduate of the Federal Technical University of Zurich, who, since he has lived in America, has spent two years at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin fellowship, and has worked on community buildings with Stonorov and Kahn. He is now working for the US Government in London. The Exhibition, which was at the Housing Centre from September 25-29 is now touring England.



This week's leading article emphasizes the need for giving planning a boost, and the Exhibition on the following pages illustrates the way to do it. There are innumerable ways of publicising planning or for that matter any other subject, but the principles behind it are universal; they are simplicity, clarity, brevity and a direct and attractive visual appeal. All of them are evident in this exhibition, which needs no captions to point the moral or adorn the plot. What is needed in Britain now is more of this type of publicity as well as publicity by radio, films, books, lectures and, in future, television. The Government must give a lead to planning publicists by producing a national policy worth publicising. The sorely pressed unofficial bodies, who have for long undertaken publicity work unaided, should be assisted by the setting up of central and local planning publicity and information centres. For if planning fails to attract sympathy and willing participation from the public, reconstruction will proceed without it.

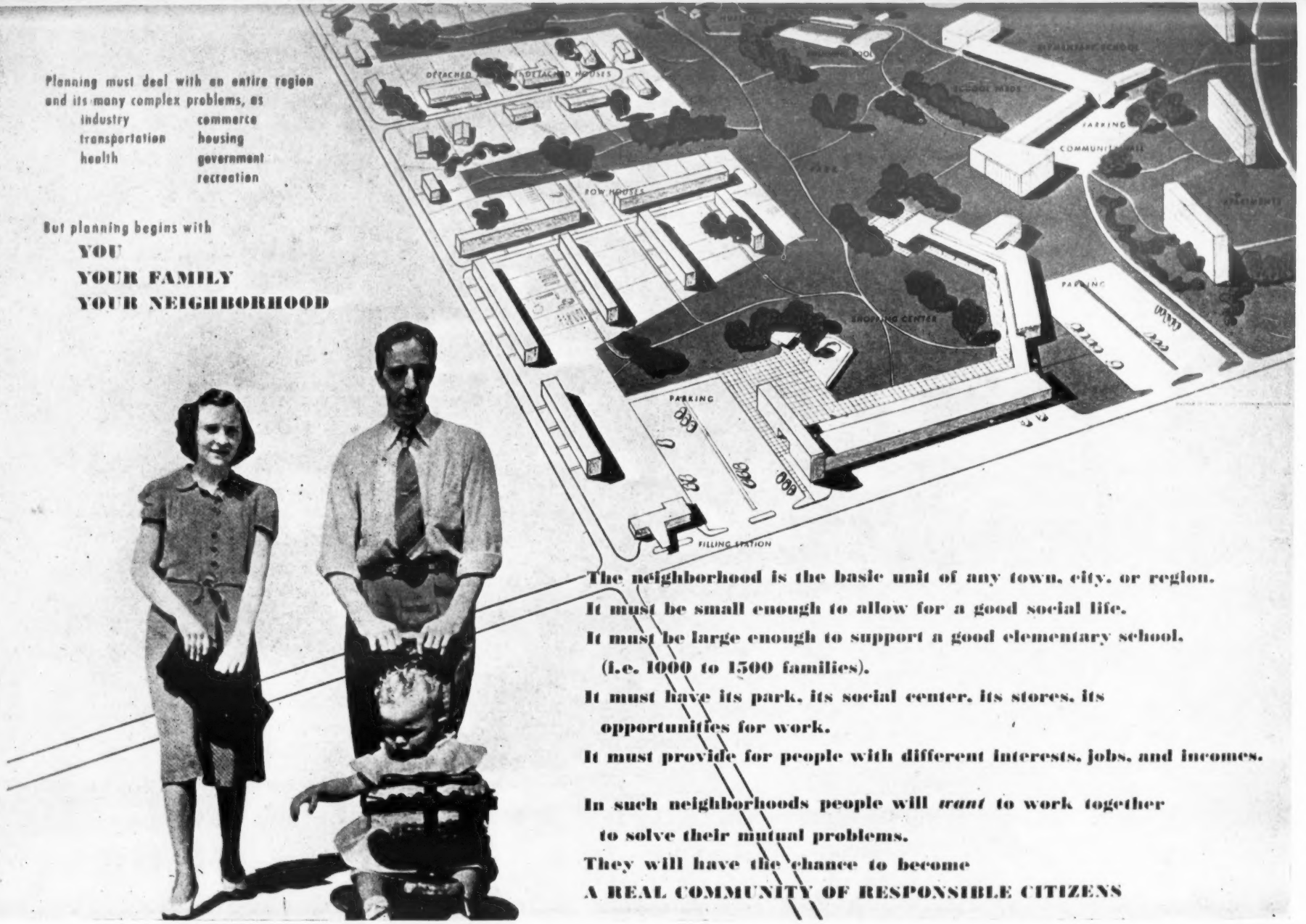


Planning must deal with an entire region and its many complex problems, as

industry	commerce
transportation	housing
health	government
	recreation

But planning begins with

YOU
YOUR FAMILY
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



The neighborhood is the basic unit of any town, city, or region.
It must be small enough to allow for a good social life.
It must be large enough to support a good elementary school.
(i.e. 1000 to 1500 families).
It must have its park, its social center, its stores, its opportunities for work.
It must provide for people with different interests, jobs, and incomes.

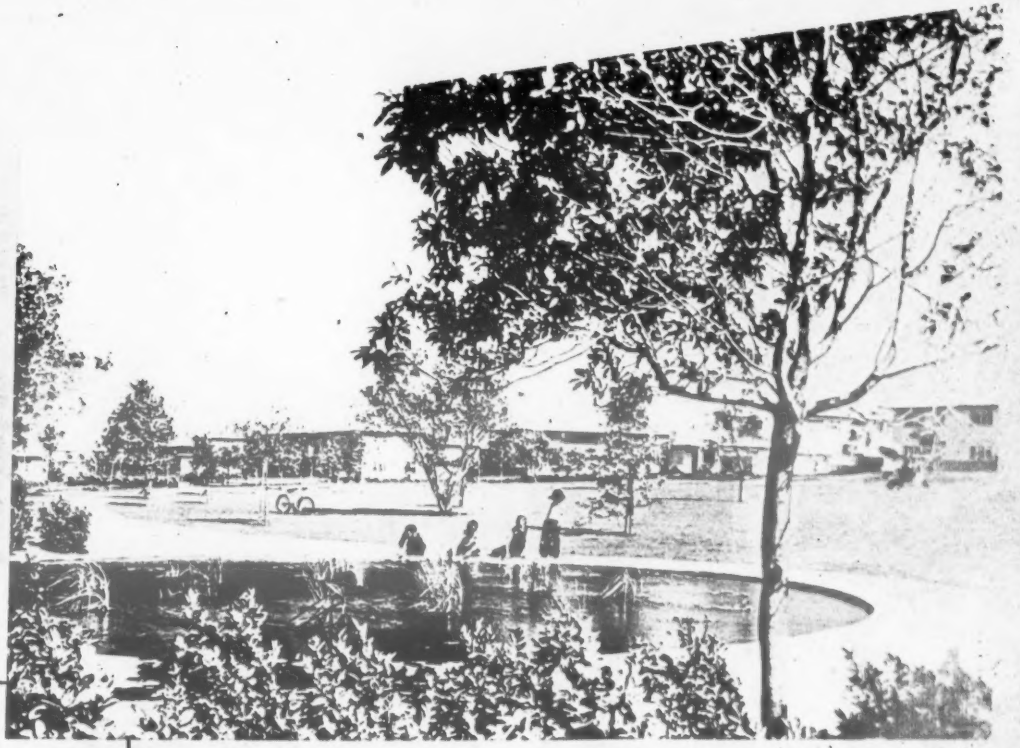
In such neighborhoods people will *want* to work together to solve their mutual problems.
They will have the chance to become
A REAL COMMUNITY OF RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

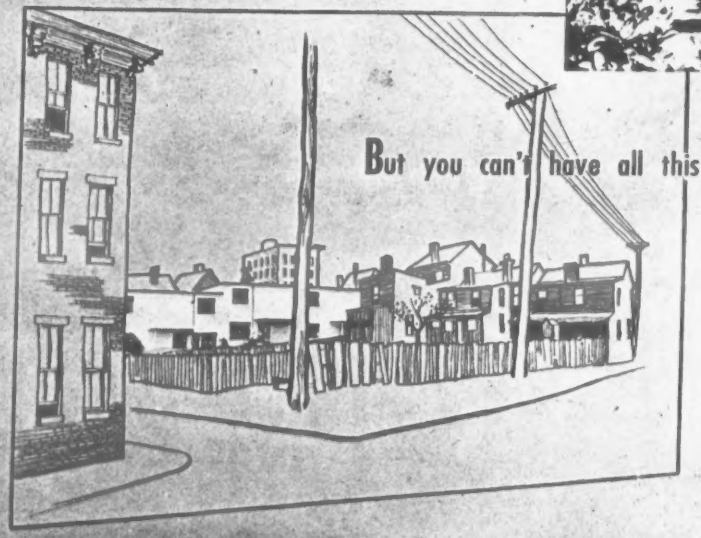
a good neighborhood has

GOOD HOUSING

whether you live in an apartment or a house
you'll want







But you can't have all this unless your house is part of a

WELL PLANNED NEIGHBORHOOD

where it is properly related to the other houses,
the park, the school, community buildings,
and served by a quiet, safe, residential street,
free of through-traffic, yet close to main highways.

a good neighborhood has

A COMMUNITY CENTER



A COMMUNITY CENTER

This center should provide space for
community gatherings
committee or club meetings
dramatics, music, dances, games
education and hobbies.

It should have a branch library, a clinic, workshops. Churches would be nearby.

Many of these facilities will be used by both adults and children. Therefore the school and the center should be closely integrated. This means a saving in building cost for the community.

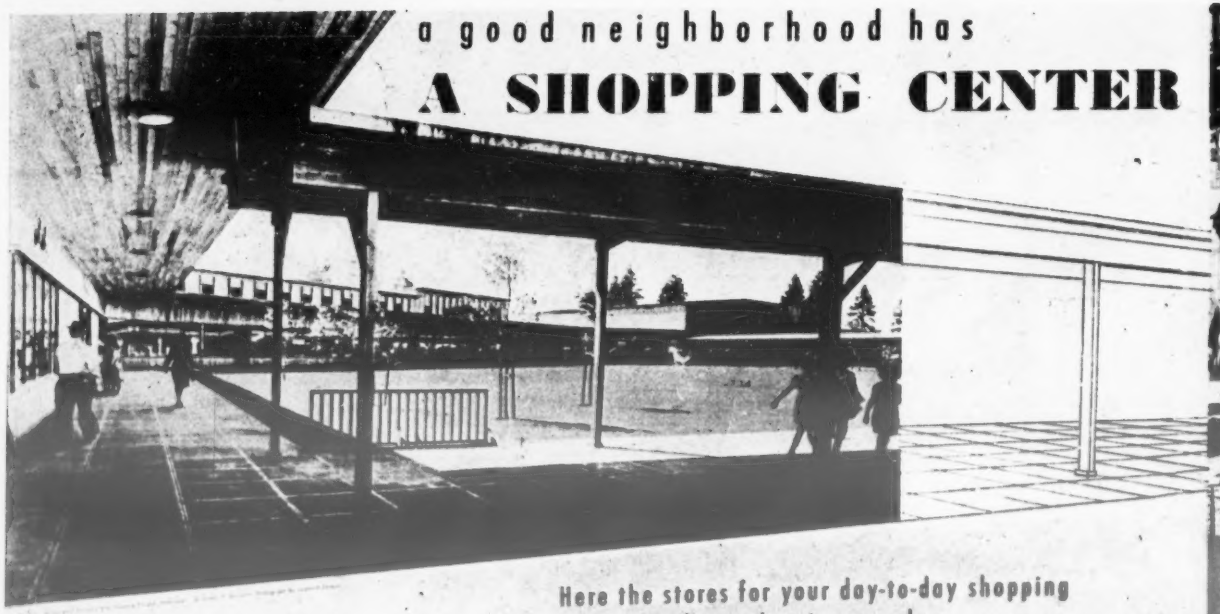




Active cooperation in community affairs will help to turn passive taxpayers into alert citizens conscious of their responsibilities in a democratic society.

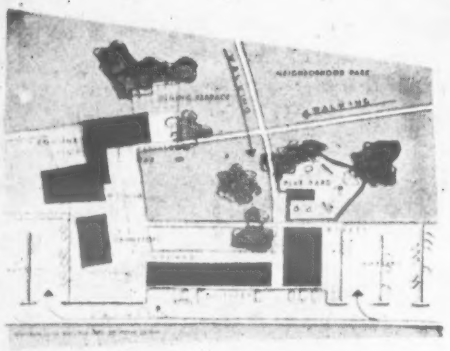
a good neighborhood has

A SHOPPING CENTER









Here the stores for your day-to-day shopping
are grouped together in one place.
You can easily walk there through the park
from any house in the neighborhood.
If you come by car you'll find ample parking space.

Such a group of shops, including some offices
for professional services, can serve the community
more economically than many scattered ones.





SHOPPING IS SOCIABLE

The shopping center should be close to the community center. It might include a restaurant, a bar, a movie theater, a bowling alley, etc.
It should have a play yard in which to leave children while you shop.

a good neighborhood has

SERVICE SHOPS



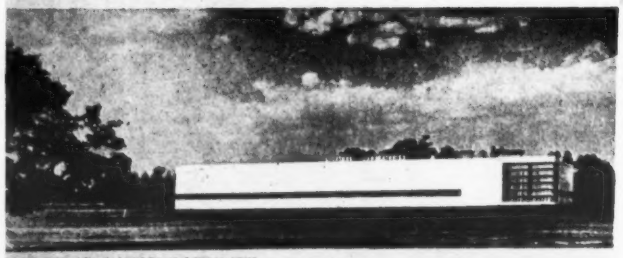
a good neighborhood has

SERVICE SHOPS

such as laundries, bakeries,
dairies, garages,
shops for carpenters, plumbers,
electricians, painters,

planned
as an integral part of the neighborhood,
yet separated from the dwellings.







AND FACTORIES

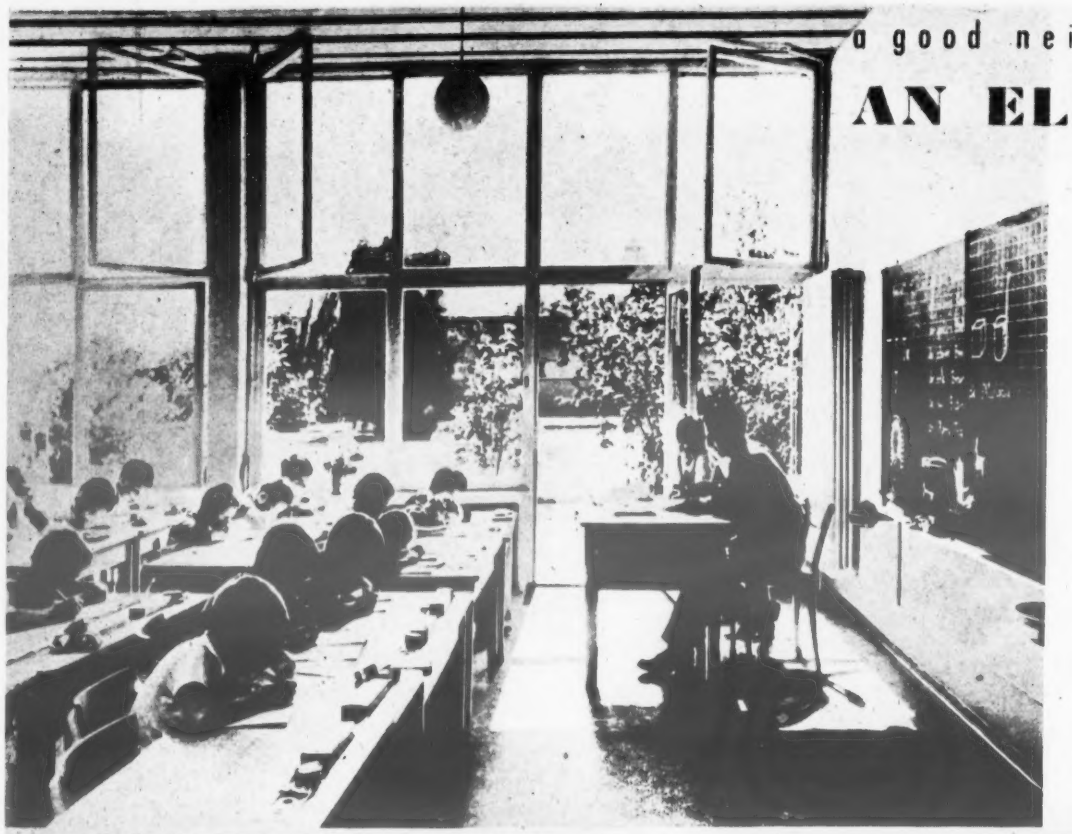
if they are clean, quiet, and electrically powered.

They should be segregated from the residential area
by park strips, but easily accessible by walking
or bicycling.

Careful provision for light industry in the neighborhood plan makes a more complete and varied community than the purely residential "dormitory" suburb. The factory work itself will be pleasanter, as it is closer to home and in cheerful surroundings.

a good neighborhood has

AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

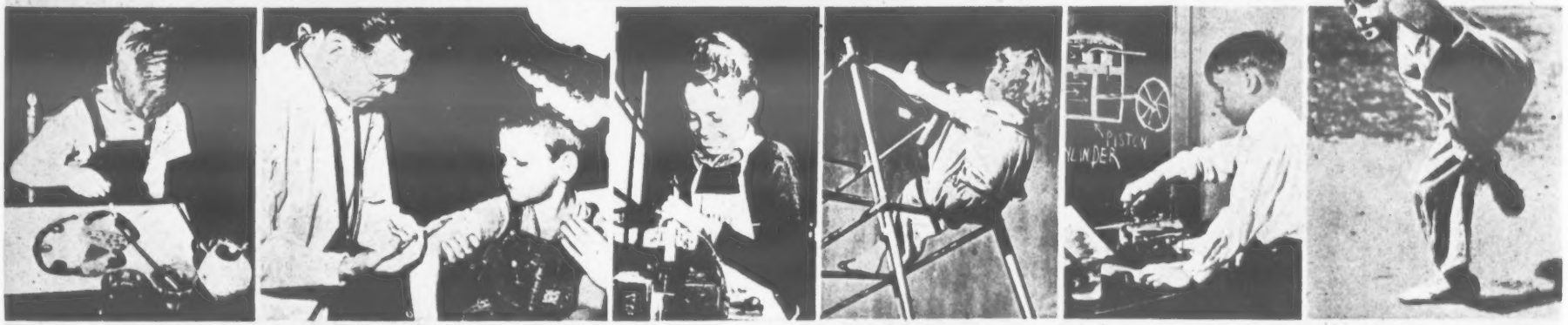


The first responsibility of the community is the education of its children.

The school should be placed in the park so that children may walk there from any house in the neighborhood without crossing traffic streets. It must also be accessible by car.

The building should be flexible to accommodate the many activities of modern education.

It must have plenty of land for playgrounds and for parking



But education does not end at the school walls. Schooling must be supplemented by the everyday experience of living in a good vigorous community.

a good neighborhood has



Schooling must be supplemented by the everyday experience of living in a good vigorous community.

a good neighborhood has

A PARK

a continuous green strip which extends to every part of the neighborhood



here you can stroll or bicycle



or play games

in the park: paths for pedestrians and bicyclists connect all parts of the neighborhood without crossing highways





or just sit, gossip



or leave your child in a nearby nursery



or exercise

A NEIGHBORHOOD MAY STAND ALONE AS A RURAL OR SUBURBAN VILLAGE

OR IT MAY BE GROUPED WITH OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS TO FORM A TOWN

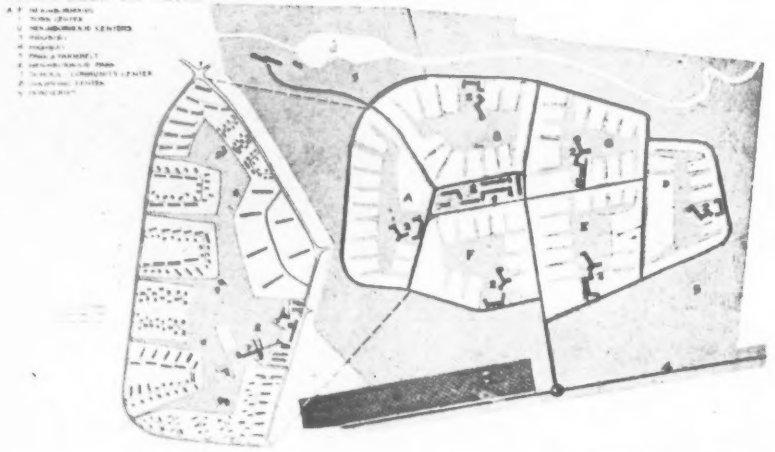
Here the various neighborhoods will be situated around a town center providing all the necessary civic and commercial buildings, such as:
town hall, high school, auditorium, library, hospital, churches, theaters, department and specialty stores, bus terminal, museum, and also a zoo, sport fields, etc.



OR THESE TOWNS

(limited to about 50,000 people) may again be part of a city or metropolitan region.

They would be widely spaced, protected from uncontrolled development by a greenbelt of park or farmland,
separated from heavy industry, yet brought close together in time by modern transportation.



But always there will be the human scale of the neighborhood community, basic cell of the town, the city, and the region.

WHEN WE BUILD AGAIN

There will be new housing (private and public), schools, shops, offices, airports, public buildings, roads, parks—

Will they be strewn around in the wasteful, haphazard way of the past?
Or shall we *plan* to put them together to make sense for the future?

Plans must be made *here and now.*
Some cities and towns have already made a good start. In others, citizens and civic organizations are just beginning to make themselves heard.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR TOWN?

This is everybody's concern. We have the resources for a good job: men, land, materials, ideas, and yes, money too. But all that is not enough. The full cooperation of public and private enterprise, local initiative, and *your* active interest are all essential if plans are to be transformed into actuality.

HERE'S OUR CHANCE!



INFORMATION CENTRE

The function of this feature is to supply an index and a digest of all current developments in planning and building technique throughout the world as recorded in technical publications, and statements of every kind whether official, private or commercial. Items are written by specialists of the highest authority who are not on the permanent staff of the Journal and views expressed are disinterested and objective. The Editors welcome information on all developments from any source, including manufacturers and contractors.

STRUCTURE

1654 **Two-Stage Housing**

TWO-STAGE HOUSING. *E. J. Buckton.* (*The Engineer, August* 25, *September* 1, 8, 1944, *pp.* 145-9, 161-3, 177-182.) Houses built in two stages. Ground floor in reinforced concrete framework, to be carried out by civil engineering industry. Upper floor to be built temporarily of Nissen huts, if required in first stage. Permanent upper floor added when conditions permit. Deficiency of housing could be overcome in 2¾ years instead of in the 3¾ years envisaged by Government programme.

The two-stage house is a permanent house, built in two stages. The ground floor is constructed first and used as a bungalow, the upper floor being added when labour and materials permit. The author claims that with the same building effort as is necessary for the Government housing programme, while providing the same number of completed houses at the end of the programme, this scheme of two-stage housing gives permanent dwellings or bungalows twice as fast in the first few vital post-war years as the Government scheme gives whole permanent houses.

According to the Government programme, providing for 300,000 factory-made steel bungalows and 300,000 permanent houses during the first two years, 3¾ years would be needed to overtake the deficit in housing, whereas with two-stage housing this period could be reduced to 2¾ years. The two programmes are illustrated and compared in five detailed diagrams.

An analysis of the labour available to the building industry leads to the conclusion that it would be wrong to build whole permanent houses during the first three years. The building effort should be concentrated on permanent half-houses and supplemented by emergency accommodation of the prefabricated type.

Few will dispute that temporary housing will be necessary. One of its difficulties is to find temporary sites, especially in built-up areas. Under the Two-stage Housing Scheme, temporary housing can be provided without the need for temporary sites and without cluttering up permanent sites with temporary housing.

The factory-made steel bungalow is an attempt to make more use of the steel industry in housing. Unfortunately, steel is one of the least suitable materials for house building. The steel industry can help the building industry best by concentrating on the mass production of fittings. It is the civil engineering and public works industry which should be called upon to give temporary, but substantial help. Spheres of activities have been agreed between the civil engineering industry and building industry which provide for the civil engineering industry dealing with site preparation and the building industry carrying out all house construction. If two-stage housing is to be adopted, it will be necessary for the two parties to agree to a temporary modification of their standing arrangement.

Two-stage building by normal methods is very difficult and expensive. Abnormal methods are necessary, but they should be such that the finished house is normal.

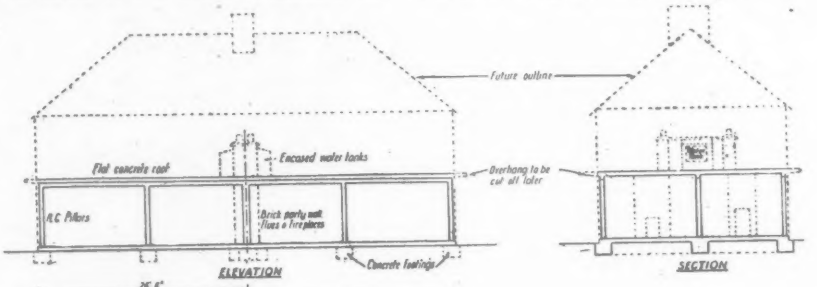
The examples of two-stage housing given in the article are based on the Duplex House of the Scottish Advisory Committee's latest recommendation, but the principle can be applied to houses of any type or size, especially terrace houses. The first floor, forming the temporary roof, is in reinforced concrete, monolithic with a framework built in the same material. Instead of the usual wall footings, concrete blocks are provided for the foundations of the columns. Level with the top of these is laid the usual concrete slab. The framework and the first floor are poured into prefabricated, mass-produced steel shuttering, which is withdrawn as soon as the concrete has set (say three days) and re-erected on the concrete ground floor of the next block of houses. Openings will be left in the first floor slab for flues and for the future staircase, the staircase openings being temporarily roofed over, and the whole slab made weatherproof.

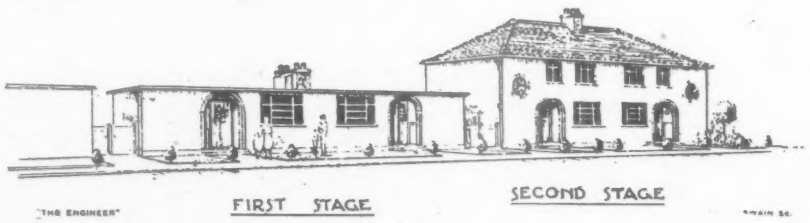
The Government housing programme will call for large estate developments, and it is assumed that the civil engineering industry will prepare the sites. It would not stop at that point, but go further by laying the foundations and constructing the framework for the first floor of two-stage houses. That the civil engineering industry should help to this extent is one of the principal features of the present proposal.

It is hoped that party walls and chimney breasts will be built in brick by the building industry. The weatherproofing and temporary roofing of the staircase opening will be done by the builders.

The first stage will provide accommodation for newly-weds, and to provide for families it is proposed to erect on the first floor a 24-ft. War Office standard Nissen hut.

The suggested method of construction allows complete freedom of planning in the layout of rooms. The calculation of cost, made by the author, indicates that the cost of two-stage housing is relatively much





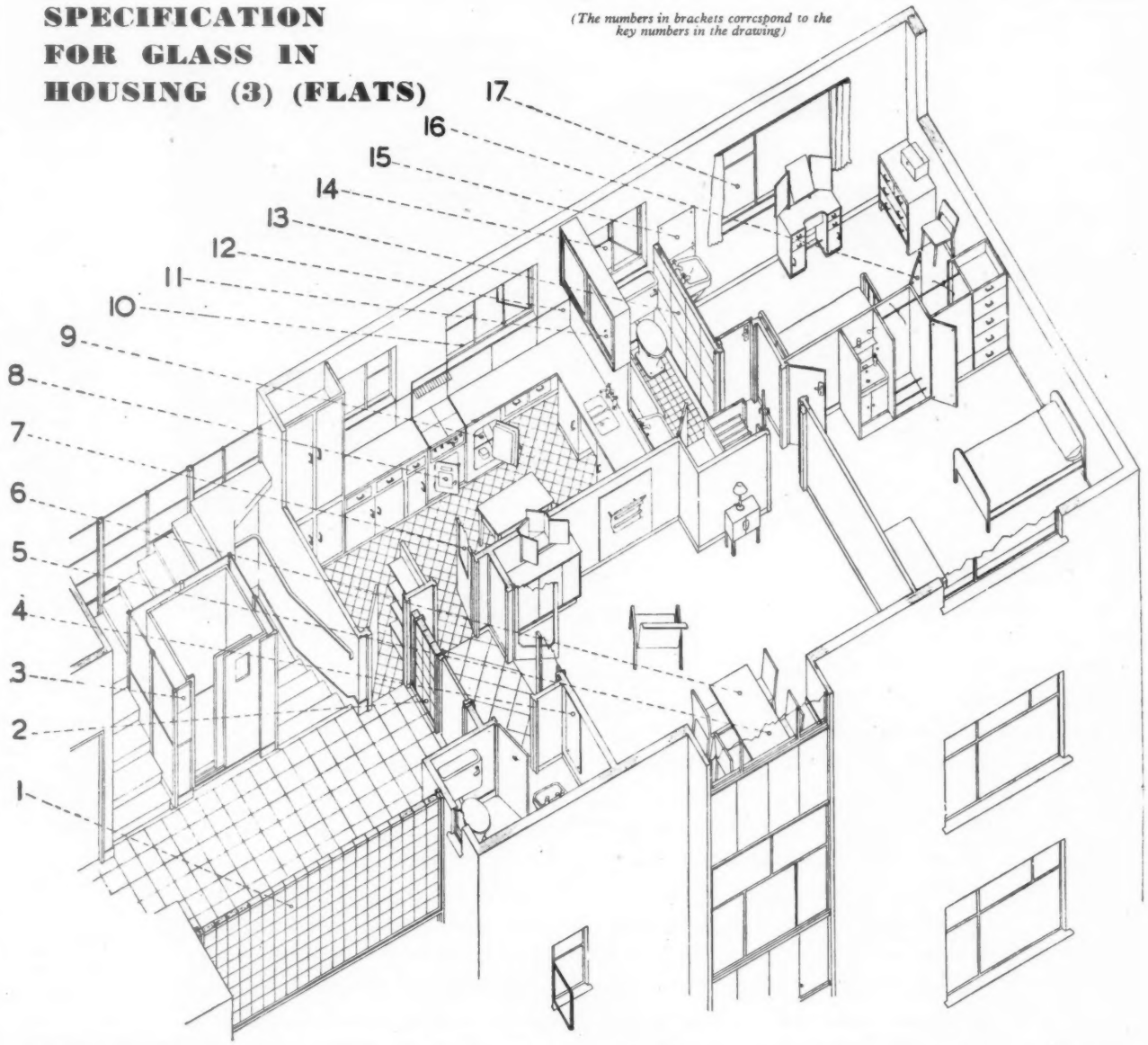


Two-stage housing. Top, plan, elevation and sections showing the first and second stages. Above, a sketch of first and second stages. Left, temporary first floor accommodation through use of Nissen huts. See No 1654.

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SPECIFICATION FOR GLASS IN HOUSING (3) (FLATS)

(The numbers in brackets correspond to the key numbers in the drawing)



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SIDE PANEL TO ENTRANCE DOOR: (2) Insulight hollow glass bricks.

LIFT ENCLOSURE: (3) Georgian Wired Cast: fire-resisting glazing. (Observation window in Georgian Polished Wired).

CLOAKROOM: (4) Mirror for robing.

LIVING ROOM (5): *Windows and door* in ¼" Polished Plate for clear undistorted vision. (6) *Table*: Clear Polished Plate to protect top.

KITCHEN (7) *Door Panel*: Georgian Wired Cast. (8) *Cooker door*: "Armourplate" Glass. (9) *Refrigerator*: Polished Plate Glass shelves. (10) *Window*: 24 oz. Sheet Glass. (11) *Cupboard doors*: 24 oz. Sheet Glass. (12) *Walls*: "Vitrolite" to dado height.

BATHROOM and W.C's (13) *Walls*: "Vitrolite" in ashlar panels to dado height. (14) *Windows*: Figured Rolled Cathedral formal pattern, to provide privacy, e.g., Small Morocco, Pinhead Morocco.

BEDROOMS (15) *Washbasin*: "Vitrolite" splashback and sill. (16) *Built-in Wardrobe*: Mirror on inside of door. (17) *Windows*: 24 oz. Sheet Glass.

FLOORS: Fibreglass Sound Insulating quilt laid on top of joists under floor for sound insulation.

SILLS: "Vitrolite" throughout.

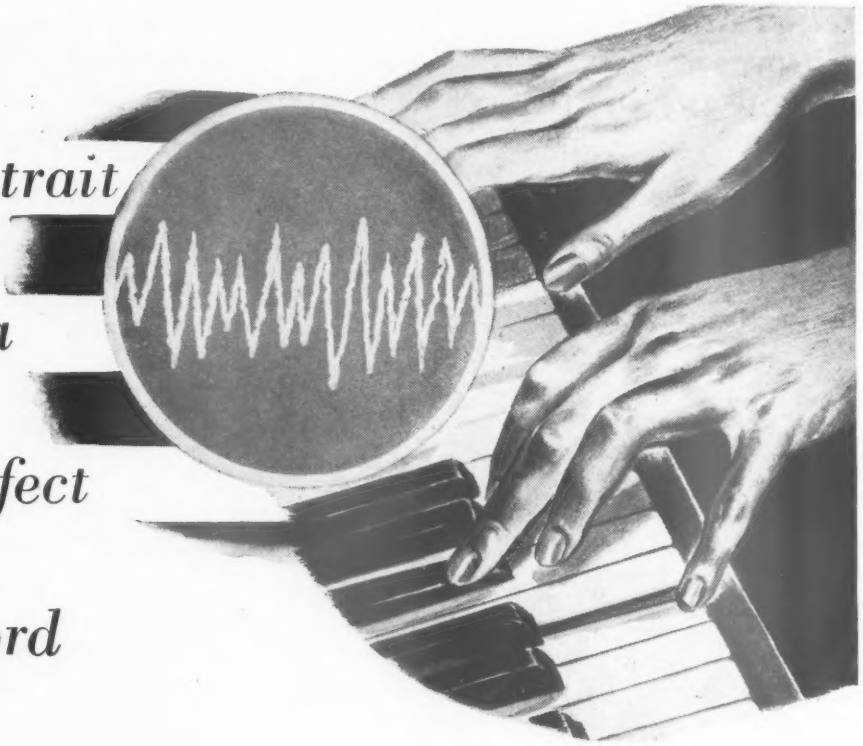
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less than housing under the Government scheme. It is considered, however, that other advantages which two-stage housing offers are of greater value, particularly the continuity of tenure and its effect upon the community.

LIGHTING

1655 *Use of Light*

LIGHT AND ARCHITECTURE. *H. E. d'Andrade.* (*Lighting and Lamps, June,* 1944, *p.* 22.) Use of light to bring out dimensional effects, pattern and mood in building design, strip lighting, coffers, laylights, coves.

This article sets out to describe how light may be used to emphasize such things as height or length in rooms, architectural patterns, and "moods."

It has frequently been noted by critics that the so-called architectural lighting sometimes defeats the general objective of illumination by cutting across the principles of design which are fundamental to good vision. This author notes the danger.

He discusses strip lighting, coffers, laylights, coves and other similar techniques.

There is a slightly naive approach to design. Thus: "The virtue of traditional architecture . . . is that (it) so often creates a definite mood." "The classical orders and a symmetrical façade suggest harmony, culture, refinement. The modern . . . may suggest antisepsis, which . . . does not stir . . . with a sense of beauty." It is sometimes said that architects have a long way to go towards technical understanding. It looks as though some engineers have an equal leeway to make up.

1656 *Aesthetic Colour Evaluation*

ÆSTHETIC MEASURE APPLIED TO COLOUR HARMONY. *Parry Moon and D. E. Spencer.* (*Journal of the Optical Society of America, April,* 1944, *p.* 234.) Interesting and persuasive record of experiments in æsthetic valuation of simple colour combinations.

The history of attempts to measure æsthetic satisfaction is unexpectedly long, reaching well back into the nineteenth century and including the names of some very fine experimenters. Almost certainly the first reaction of the artist to studies of æsthetic measure would be to say, "It is impossible to measure æsthetic satisfaction; and in any case the artist must rely on intuition." But the present studies are nevertheless interesting and well worth a study by serious artists, not least because they are the first of such studies on colour.

Plato defined beauty as "the expression of unity in variety," which in one form or another is probably a widely accepted principle of æsthetics to-day. The present authors refer to it as "order in complexity." Birkhoff, in 1933, working on the same principle, defined æsthetic measure as being equal to the number of elements of order divided by the complexity, stating it as the formula $M = \frac{O}{C}$. The application of the formula requires values to be given to elements of order and complexity. Such values as identity, contrast, ambiguity, and area balance were evaluated in the present experiments, by means of trials with Munsell colour chips, using architects as observers. The values obtained were summed to give O and C in the formula, and thereby a numerical relationship was established for a large variety of simple colour combinations. These are tabulated by the Munsell system.

The first value of such an experiment lies not, of course, in the actual results, but in the possibility of future studies which may yield amplified principles of design. In a period of æsthetic revolution one is bound to seek a foundation somewhere in science. One would probably not visualize ever using such an analytical method for purposes of design, but undoubtedly the method of thinking could provide first-class intellectual discipline.

QUESTIONS and Answers

THE Information Centre answers any question about architecture, building, or the professions and trades within the building industry. It does so free of charge, and its help is available to any member of the industry. Answers are sent direct to enquirers as soon as they have been prepared. The service is confidential, and in no case is the identity of an enquirer disclosed to a third party. Questions should be sent to: THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, *45, The Avenue, Cheam, Surrey.*

1657 *Camp Hospitals*

Q *Part of my job is to compile and gather data for standards of accommodation in connection with certain clearance camps which are to be placed on occupied territory. Part of the units of accommodation are divided into isolation hospitals and ordinary camp hospitals. Before I supply the standards of accommodation for these medical units I must have some idea of the units of plan and the normal requirements for a camp, isolation and general hospital. Where could I get official data on this matter?*

A We suggest that you get in touch with the Ministry of Works, Lambeth Bridge House, London, S.E.1, as they have some Standard Hutted Schemes for Hospitals, which have been erected during the war. As you are engaged on official work, we have no doubt they would give you every assistance in this matter.

1658 *Staircases*

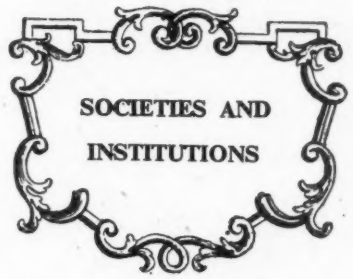
Q *Where can I obtain information as to the method of calculating the capacity of staircases in terms of persons per minute per foot of width, with particular regard to staircases used by large numbers of the public? The names of any official publication on this matter would be helpful.*

A Certain information can be obtained from the *Manual of Safety Requirements in Theatres and Other Places of Public Entertainment* (1935), issued by the Home Office, and obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office, price 2s. 6d.

It has been calculated, in connection with theatres, that about 40 persons per minute pass an exit or move down a stairway per "unit of exit width." The unit width laid down in the *Manual of Safety Requirements* is 22 in., as it is considered that 22 in. is the minimum width which allows a large person, or a woman leading a child, to pass in comfort.

ARP Handbook No. 5 (*Structural Defence*), obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office, price 2s., not only gives information about shelter entrances and observations by the Metropolitan Police upon the movements of crowds, but also (p. 39) gives the following useful information about "London general public passing at entrances or exits consisting of stairs of the normal pattern and subways, either level or sloped 1 in 6, in one minute, all moving in one direction, in daylight or artificial light:—

Order of going	Width of opening			Remarks]
	ft. in. 2 6	ft. in. 4 0	ft. in. 6 0	
Unhurried	104	119	150	LPTB observation



Speeches and lectures delivered before societies, as well as reports of their activities, are dealt with under this title, which includes trade associations, Government departments, Parliament and professional societies. To economize space the bodies concerned are represented by their initials, but a glossary of abbreviations will be found on the front cover. Except where inverted commas are used, the reports are summaries, and not verbatim.

RIBA

Sir Ian MacAlister

October 18, at RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1. PRESENTATION TO SIR IAN MACALISTER AND LADY MACALISTER on his retirement as Secretary to the RIBA. Among the speakers were Percy Thomas (President), Sir Banister Fletcher, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, Captain H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, W. H. Ansell (Past Presidents), J. Hubert Worthington (Vice-President), J. R. McKay (President of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland), Michael Waterhouse (Hon. Secretary), C. D. Spragg (Acting Secretary), the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey (High Commissioner for Canada), Sir Ian MacAlister.

P. Thomas: When we decided about a year ago to make a little presentation to Sir Ian on his departing from us, the response from members of the Institute was immediate and widespread. We had a response from Fellows, Associates, Licentiates and Students, as well as from many members of the allied societies both here and overseas.



At the RIBA'S Presentation to Sir Ian MacAlister. Left to right: Michael Waterhouse; the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, High Commissioner for Canada presenting Sir Ian with the Honorary Fellowship and Diploma of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada; Percy Thomas, the President, and C. D. Spragg, Acting Secretary of the RIBA.

The response enables us to present to Sir Ian an address and a cheque, and to Lady MacAlister a rose bowl, which I hope to have the opportunity of handing to her presently.

Sir B. Fletcher: I am very pleased to be here to-day, as a Past-President, to testify to our regard for Sir Ian MacAlister, to thank him for the work that he has done for the RIBA, and to say how glad we are to see him here after his recent accident.

In order to be well within the five minutes allotted to me, I will just recall hurriedly and briefly the thirty-six years during which Sir Ian has been our Secretary and refer very shortly to some of the great things which he has carried through in furtherance of the ideas of this Royal Institute.

In 1910, Sir Ian carried out to a large extent the organization of the Town Planning Congress of that year, which I think first publicly focussed attention upon the importance of town and country planning, which has been carried on so much since then. Following that, in fairly rapid succession, came the International Congress on Architectural Education in 1924, the amalgamation of the Society of Architects with the Institute in 1925, the passing of the Registration Acts of 1931 and 1938, and the rebuilding of the headquarters and the celebration of the centenary of the RIBA in 1934. There have been also many outstanding movements during Sir Ian's secretaryship, including the organization and the advance of architectural education; the fostering of the network of allied societies, which has been of such great importance to the architectural profession throughout the country and indeed the Empire, and by means of which the Institute has carried its influence and guidance into the furthest parts of the world; and the organization of the fine library which we possess here. (I remember the skill which Sir Ian MacAlister showed in extracting a small sum out of my own well-worn pocket, when I was on the Council of the Institute, in order to enable the catalogue to be printed.) Those matters as well as the architectural competitions, the matters of contract and so on, are a few of the many great works to which Sir Ian devoted his energies in furtherance of the interests of the RIBA and the profession.

With regard to the period when I was President of the Institute, in looking back upon those two years of hard work, much uncommercial travelling and various functions, I can truly say that if it had not been for Sir Ian's help, encouragement and advice I should not have been able to carry out my duties properly.

We wish a happy retirement to Sir Ian and also to Lady MacAlister, who has been so much to Sir Ian during all these years, and has been nursing him through his late dangerous illness. We hope that they will have a period of leisure which will be all the more enjoyable because they will both know that it is well earned, for Sir Ian more than any other man has helped to build up on sure foundations the superstructure of this great imperial society, the Royal Institute of British Architects.

J. H. Worthington: (representing provincial and Empire architects): When " Mac " became Secretary in 1908, most of us were in our architectural cradles. Some of us were not born. The RIBA was primarily a London body. Only occasionally did a provincial mouse dare to raise a little squeak, but now they are a mighty chorus. I will let the facts speak for themselves. When " Mac " became Secretary there were 2,194 members of this Institute: there are now 9,294 members. In 1908 there were 17 allied societies: now there are 21, with 53 branches. In 1908 there was one overseas society: now there are 9, with 25 branches. In fact, there is a total of 30 societies, with 78 branches, and 108 in all. It is a tremendous work. In this year of grace we have not only a provincial President, but three provincial Vice-Presidents, so none can now say that the RIBA is a learned London exclusive society, a privileged class. It is not at all. It is a worldwide democratic Institution, with a Council of such a size that how any business is ever done I do not know.

Presidents came and went and Councils came and went, but " Mac " seemed to go on for ever, maintaining continuity of policy, and steering this old ship with his wisdom and experience—this weather-beaten old ship that he has taken through so many stormy passages. We have indeed cause to be grateful to our pilot now that we are dropping him over the side for his well-earned rest.

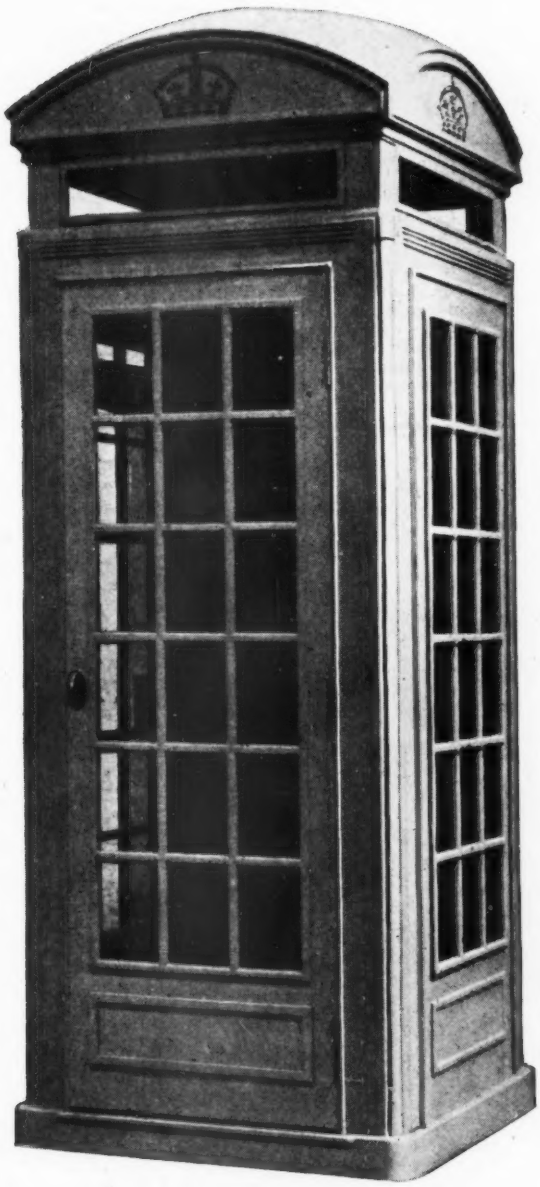
V. Massey: As the President has just said, it is my honour and privilege, as Canadian representative here and as one of the Honorary Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, to present to Sir Ian this afternoon the Diploma and Medallion which symbolize membership of our Canadian Institute. This award by the Canadian Institute represents the feeling of very deep gratitude which all the members of the architectural profession in Canada feel for the countless kindnesses which Canadian architects have received from Sir Ian MacAlister during his long term of office here, and, as Canadian representative in this country, I should like to say how grateful we all are for what Sir Ian has done in forging new links and in strengthening personal ties in his work all through his years here, between your country and mine.

Sir Ian MacAlister: I experienced kindness from the very beginning of my time here. When that very young man was appointed to the secretaryship of the Institute at the end of 1907, I am sure some people were a little dubious about it, but as soon as I had been appointed they said: "Oh, you had better come along and dine with us," and they took me round the corner to the *Burlington*. Leonard Stokes gripped me by the arm, and in characteristic Stokesian language gave me blunt advice about my job. We got to the *Burlington*, and there I found myself in the middle of a group of new friends, very few of whom are alive now. There were Thomas Collcutt in the chair, Ernest George, Leonard Stokes, Reginald Blomfield, Edwin Lutyens, Paul Waterhouse, John Slater, John Simpson,

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and a host of others, and at once they made me one of themselves, and made me comfortable and happy.

The RIBA is really a very great institution. It is not one of the biggest in wealth and numbers, but it is, in my considered opinion, the best of all in energy, vitality and public spirit. I can see the beginnings now of a quite baseless legend, the idea that the work of the last thirty-six years has been in some sense rather a " one-man show." I can see people attributing to me personally all that has happened in the last thirty-six years. That would be a complete illusion. If it were true it would be a very disastrous thing. It would point to a lack of vitality and organic power that would be disastrous to any profession or professional body.

In conclusion, I should like to say to those who have spoken this afternoon, to those who have contributed, and to all those who have helped: " On behalf of my wife and myself, I thank you with all my heart."

IES

E. Stroud

October 10, at the Lighting Service Bureau, 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2. Opening meeting of the Illuminating Engineering Society. Presidential address on THE IES AND ITS FUTURE, by E. Stroud. A summary is given below.

E. Stroud : The subject of this address is the Illuminating Engineering Society and its future. The Society was formed by Mr. Leon Gaster in 1909. Its first President was Professor Silvanus P. Thompson. Originally there was little information in regard to lighting practice. The instruments available for the measurement of illumination were few and cumbersome. Much original work was done by Mr. A. P. Trotter and other early pioneers and Committees were formed to deal with the lighting of schools and libraries and other subjects. The setting up of the Home Office Committee on Factory Lighting in 1913 was an important landmark.

During the first Great War members of the Society did useful work on the measurement of the candlepower of flares and the brightness of radium compounds for coating gunsights, etc., and the year 1915 saw the issue of the first of the series of reports on factory lighting issued by the Departmental Committee. Other reports followed in 1921 and 1922. A BSI Committee was formed to prepare a standard specification on Street Lighting—which eventually formed the subject of reports by the special committee set up by the Ministry of Transport.

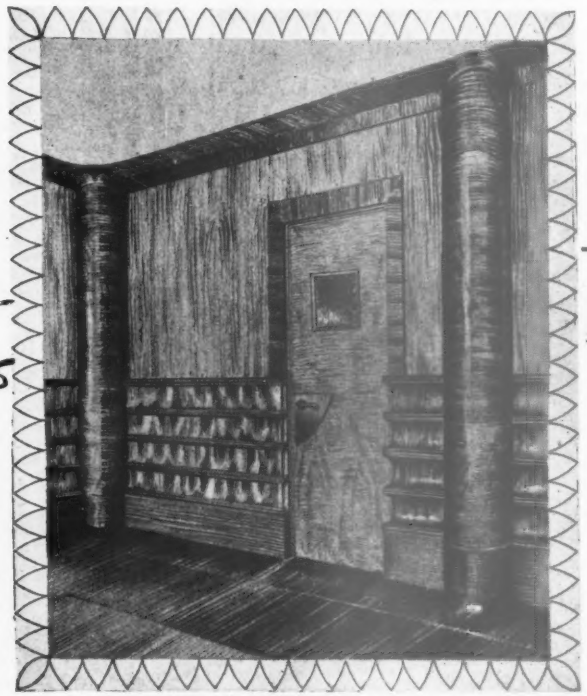
During the first twenty years the foundations of the Society were laid. The floodlighting of London buildings, which accompanied the holding of the International Illumination Congress in London in 1931, did much to call attention to its efforts. Efforts were made to create interest in the Provinces, where the first centre, in Manchester, was formed in 1932.

From 1934 onwards there ensued a period of development during which the Society made rapid progress. The membership, at this time about 450, advanced to 850 at the commencement of the present war, and has now attained over 1,600—nearly a fourfold increase during these ten years. Several ambitions of the Society have since been realized, such as the formation of the nucleus of a library, the issue of Transactions and the establishment of a class of Fellowship—a coveted honour at present granted to 127 members.

This present growth of membership has been mainly due to the development of Centres, now ten in number, with which, and with five supplementary Groups, there are associated over 1,000 members.

The growing recognition of the importance of good lighting is illustrated by the official recognition given to the IES Code of values of illumination. The inclusion of lighting in the Factory Act of 1937 makes good an omission stressed by Professor Silvanus Thompson in his inaugural address 35 years ago. During the present war the Society has devoted much attention to ARP lighting problems, on which at one time about 24 Committees, enlisting the services of over 100 members, were working. Perhaps the most valuable of these services was the organization of War-Time Street Lighting (" Synthetic Star-Light "). Members of the Society are serving on the DSIR (Ministry of Works) Committee on the Lighting of Postwar Buildings and on the Codes of Practice Committee. A series of Lighting Reconstruction Pamphlets has also been issued. There are various important plans in preparation, such as those relating to the education of lighting engineers and the provision of a " hallmark " recording their qualifications. The realization of all these plans will involve the provision of a full-time paid Secretary, an extension of the staff and, ultimately, larger premises.

In years to come there should be great opportunities for lighting. Closer links should be established with the sister societies in the United States and the Dominions, and international contact should be revived.



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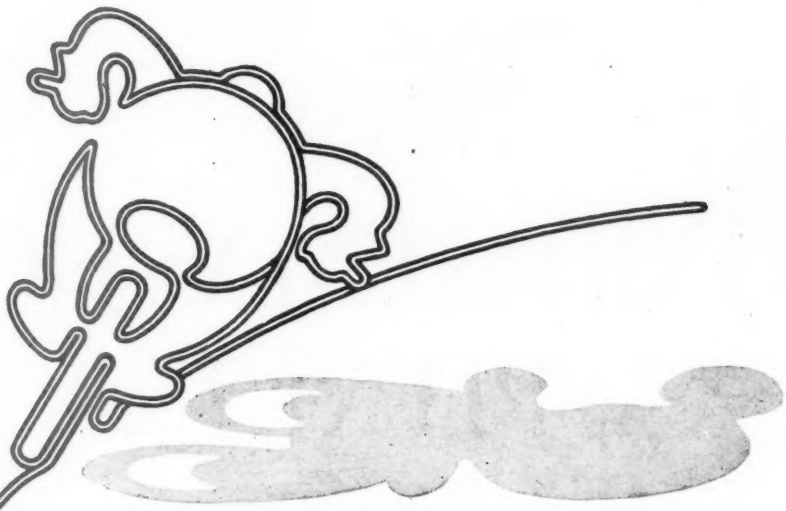
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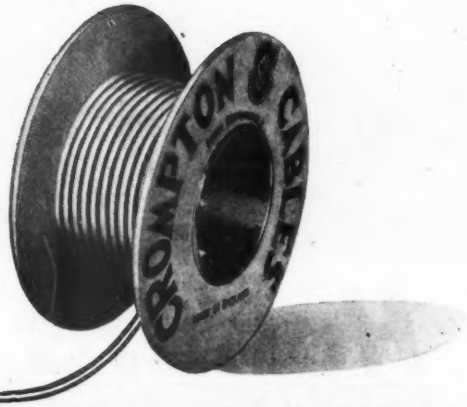


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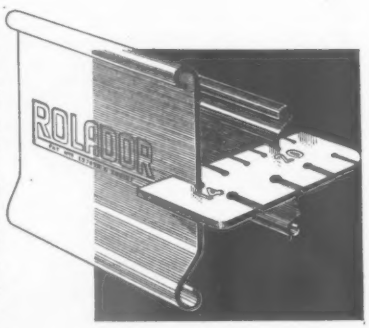


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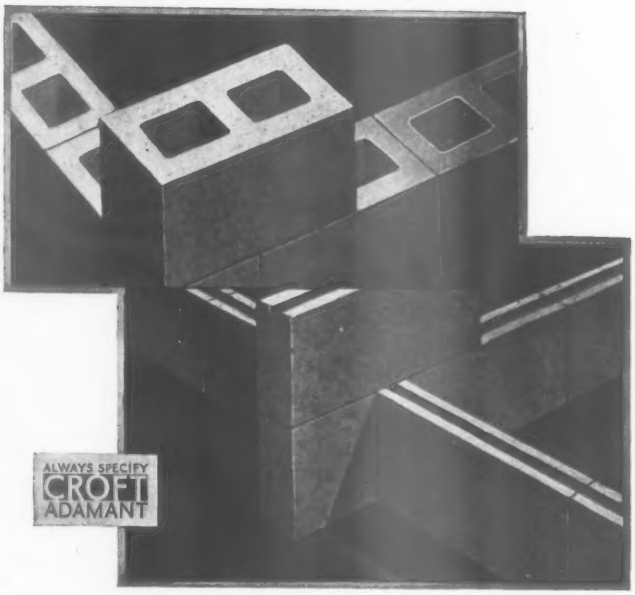
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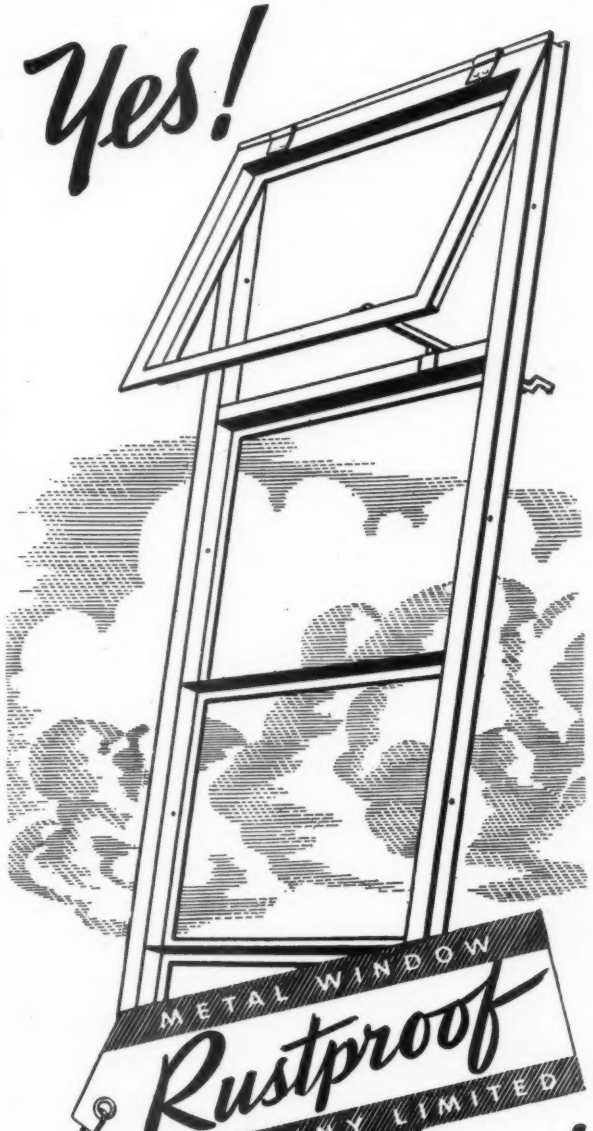
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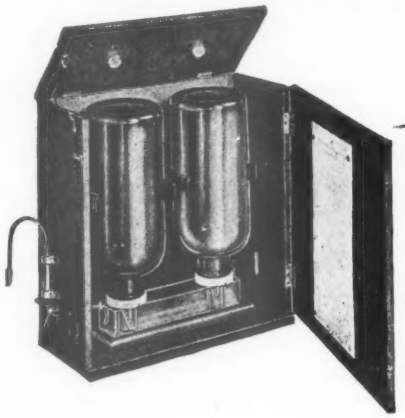
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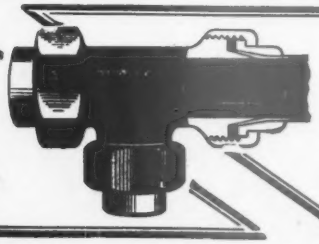
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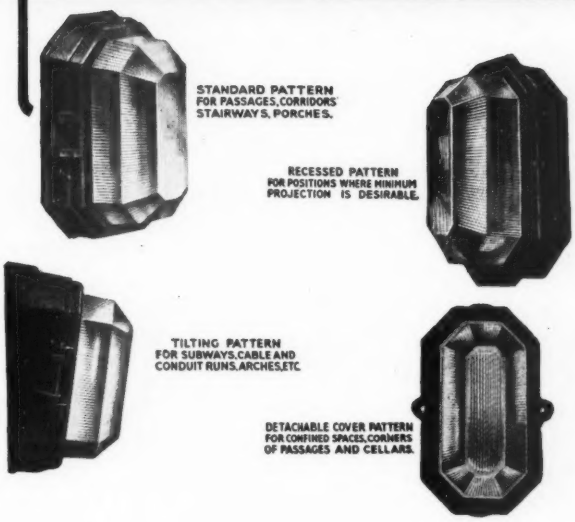
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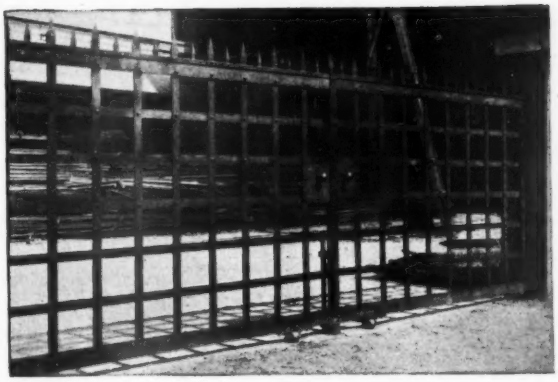


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Alphabetical Index to Advertisers

	PAGE
Accrington Brick & Tile Co.	——
Acme Wringers, Ltd.	xv
Aidas Electric, Ltd.	——
Anderson, C. F., & Son, Ltd.	——
Anderson, D., & Son, Ltd.	——
Ardor Insulation Co., Ltd.	xliv
Arens Controls, Ltd.	xii
Associated Metal Works	xliii
Austins of East Ham (Ltd.)	——
Bartlett, G. F. E. & Son, Ltd.	xviii
Bell, A. & Co., Ltd.	xli
Bigwood, Joshua & Son, Ltd.	iii
Birmetals, Ltd.	v
Black & Decker, Ltd.	——
Boulton & Paul, Ltd.	xliii
Braithwaite & Co., Engineers, Ltd.	——
Braby, Fredk., & Co., Ltd.	——
Bratt Colbran, Ltd.	x
British Electrical Development Assoc.	——
British Ironfounders Assoc.	xxxiii
British Trane Co., Ltd.	——
Broadcast Relay Service, Ltd.	xxxii
Brown, Donald (Brownall), Ltd.	xliii
Brush Electrical Engineering Co., Ltd.	——
Cable Makers' Association	xxviii
Carrier Engineering Co., Ltd.	vii
Cement Marketing Co., Ltd.	xxvi
Clarke & Vigilant Sprinklers, Ltd.	——
Colthurst Symons & Co., Ltd.	xxiv
Crittall Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	——
Croft Granite, Brick & Concrete Co., Ltd.	xxxviii
Crompton Parkinson, Ltd.	xxxv
Davidson, C., & Sons, Ltd.	——
De La Rue Plastics, Ltd.	xxiv
Eagle Pencil Company	ii
Edgar, William, & Son, Ltd.	viii
Ellison, George, Ltd.	xl
Esavian, Ltd.	xxx
Etchells, Congdon & Muir, Ltd.	——
Evertaut, Ltd.	——
Expandite Products, Ltd.	xxxvii
Flexo-Plywood Industries, Ltd.	——
Forrest, George & Son, Ltd.	xix
Foyles	xlii
Franki Pile Co., Ltd.	iv
Freeman, Joseph, Sons & Co., Ltd.	——
Frigidaire, Ltd.	xi
Gaze, W. H., & Sons, Ltd.	xxxvii
General Cable Mfrg. Co., Ltd.	——
Gillett & Johnston, Ltd.	xliii
Greenwoods & Airvac Ventilating Co., Ltd.	ii
Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd.	xiii
Hardtmuth, L. & C. (Gt. Britain), Ltd.	——
Harvey, G. A., & Co. (London), Ltd.	——
Haskins, Ltd.	xxxvi
Higgs & Hill, Ltd.	xx
Hope, Henry & Sons, Ltd.	xvi
Hopton-Wood Stone Firms, Ltd.	vi
Horseley Bridge & Thomas Piggott, Ltd.	——
Ilford, Ltd.	xxxix
Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.	——
Industrial Engineering, Ltd.	——
International Correspondence Schools Ltd.	xl
Johnston Bros. (Contractors), Ltd.	——
Ketton Portland Cement Co., Ltd.	——
Lacrinoid Products, Ltd.	——
Laing, John, & Son, Ltd.	xlvi
Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalte Co., Ltd.	xxxvi
Lloyd Boards, Ltd.	ii
Mallinson, Wm. & Sons, Ltd.	xxxiv
Marley Tile Co., Ltd.	——
McCall & Co. (Sheffield), Ltd.	——
McCarthy & Sons, Ltd., M.	xl
McKechnie Bros., Ltd.	——
Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd.	xlii
M.K. Electric, Ltd.	vi
Midland Electric Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	——
Mills, Scaffold Co., Ltd.	xlv
Parsons, C. H., Ltd.	xxi
Pilkington Bros., Ltd.	xxxi
Prodorite, Ltd.	——
Pyrene Co., Ltd.	xxii
Rownson, Drew & Clydesdale, Ltd.	——
Ruberoid Co., Ltd.	xliv
Rustproof Metal Window Co., Ltd.	xxxix
Sankey, J. H., & Son, Ltd.	——
Saunders & Taylor, Ltd.	——
Scaffolding (Gt. Britain), Ltd.	——
Sharman, R. W.	xlii
Sharp Bros. & Knight, Ltd.	——
Smith's Fireproof Floors, Ltd.	xli
Standard Range & Foundry Co. Ltd.	——
Stott, James & Co. (Engineers), Ltd.	——
Sutcliffe, Speakman & Co., Ltd.	——
Taylor Woodrow Construction, Ltd.	xvii
Tentest Fibre Board Co., Ltd.	——
Thompson Beacon Windows, Ltd., John	xxv
Thorp, J. B.	xl
Trussed Concrete Steel Co., Ltd.	xiv
Tullis, D. & J., Ltd.	ii
Uni-Seco Structures, Ltd.	xxvii
United Ebonite & Lorival, Ltd.	xxxviii
Universal Asbestos Mfrg. Co., Ltd.	——
Wardle Engineering Co., Ltd.	xliii
Warerite, Ltd.	ix
Waxed-Papers, Ltd.	xlii
Wright Anderson & Co., Ltd.	xxiii
Wood Wool Building Slab Mfrs. Assoc.	——
Zinc Alloy Rust-Proofing Co., Ltd.	——

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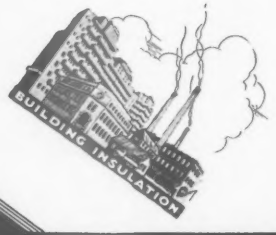
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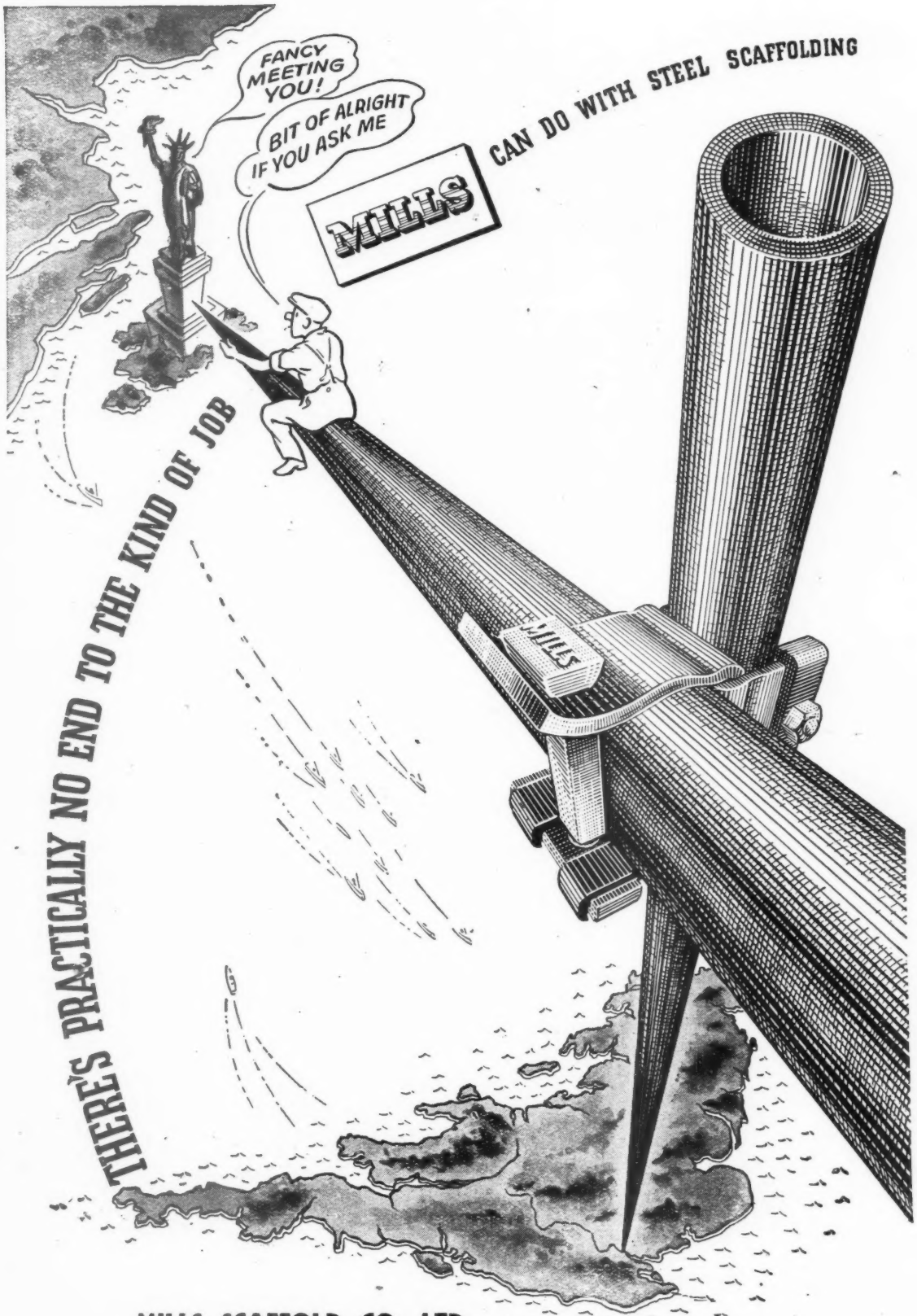
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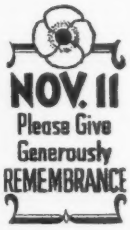
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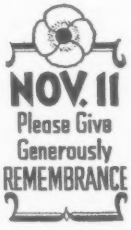
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